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Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Cadres Discuss Territories Representation

JN2206164589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Fatah cadres in the occupied Palestinian territory have proposed to the Fatah Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council, which concluded their meetings in Tunis a few days ago, that they be represented on the Revolutionary Council by a number of seats. The Revolutionary Council's formation will be completed during the next general congress session in Algeria in July. Palestinian sources in Tunis told AL-ITTIHAD that the Fatah cadres affirmed the importance of this step to foil the Israeli enemy attempts aimed at undermining the unity of the Palestinian ranks inside and outside the occupied territory. The sources added that there is a trend also to represent some deportees from the Palestinian territory in the Revolutionary Council.

PLO Official on Issue of Self-Determination

NC2306154689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Jun (MENA)—'Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah, director general of the PLO political department, has stated that 95 percent of the discussion that took place during the recent session of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue revolved around the right to self-determination.

He said that the U.S. side considered the right to self-determination to mean an independent state. In the view of the Americans, this is tantamount to imposing a precondition.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, Abu-Hijlah stressed the need for the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to continue. However, he called for upgrading it in order to reach concrete results.

Abu-Hijlah explained that the PLO recently conducted a study which confirmed that the Camp David agreements are 10 times better than Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for holding elections in the occupied Arab territories.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, citing informed Arab sources in Paris, says that the U.S. Administration has instructed its ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, to hold talks with Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, Fatah's number two. This would be considered the first time the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue reached a high level.

The sources stressed that the U.S. Administration is still opposed to a meeting between its ambassador in Tunis and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

PLO Team To Discuss Israeli Election Plan

JN2606112089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] It has been learned from a Palestinian source in Tunis that the PLO has formed a working team to discuss the the Israeli Government's plan for elections in the occupied territories.

The United States had earlier urged the PLO to reply positively to the elections plan contained in the Israeli peace initiative. According to informed sources, Washington asked the PLO's leadership to form a delegation from the occupied territory notables in order to discuss this plan with the Israeli Government.

Kuwaiti Papers Note Fatah Congress Discussions

JN2406120189 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22-23 Jun 89 pp 1, 17

[From AL-SIYASAH Amman office]

[Text] Observers have noticed the absence of three prominent Palestinian figures from the current meetings of the Fatah Central Commitee and Revolutionary Council. The Fatah meetings began earlier this week to reevaluate and revise the movement's strategy and bylaws. The absent figures are Salim al-Za'nun, Rafiq al-Natshah, and Khalid al-Hasan. It is generally believed that the first two are absent because of special assignments. Abu-al-Sa'id's [Khalid al-Hasan] absence is being justified by illness. However, well-connected sources say his failure to attend is related to his own longstanding position that made him spend most of the recent years in Morocco, his family's new country of residence.

The Fatah Central Committee and Revolutionary Council (70 members) have fixed 10 July as the date for the Fatah general congress in Algiers. The Fatah general congress was last held in 1980. Algiers was chosen for security considerations.

A preparatory committee for this congress was formed 1 and ½ years ago under the late Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. The same members of the committee, numbering 23, were again chosen this week under Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to prepare for and issue invitations to the congress. Participating in the committee are Faruq Qaddumi, Mahmud 'Abbas, Sakhr Habash, Umm Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], 'Abbas Zaki, Abu-al-'Abd, and other central committee and Revolutionary Council members.

According to preliminary lists, 350 members, only half of the general congress membership, will be able to attend the Algiers congress, which is expected to deal with historic decisions and stands on the Palestinian issue. This week's discussions have shown that it is very difficult to come up with unanimous, final decisions in line with the political stand that was entrenched after the Algiers summit conference. These decisions pertain to substantive issues such as the fate of the Palestine

National Charter and the formation of a national party in the occupied territory based on the Fatah movement to participate in elections if the right conditions are available.

The other organizational issue to be discussed will be the completion of the movement's frameworks pertaining to the central committee and the Revolutionary Council and other leading bodies in view of the many seats that are now vacant in the central committee due to death, martyrdom, or detention.

The Fatah bylaws allow the central committee membership to reach 18, of which 15 are elected directly and the other 3 are elected by the central committee itself. The current membership of the central committee is 10 only, 7 of whom were directly elected at the general congress and the others, Abu-Mahir, Abu-al-Hawl, and Abu-al-Adib [Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym, Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, and Salim al-Za'nun respectively] were chosen by the central committee. Some of the names that are being proposed for central comittee membership during the Fatah general congress next month are Umm Jihad, Abu-al-Mutasim [Ahmad 'Afanah], Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, 'Abbas Zaki, and Sakhr Habash. 'Arafat proposed the addition of the names of his private secretary Ramzi Khuri, his office director Sami Musallam, and three directors of Fatah offices to the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

AL-ANBA' on Fatah Plans

JN2606184289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 25 Jun 89 p 29

[Text] Tunis—When will the Fatah movement convene its general congress? The biggest Palestinian faction was expected to hold its congress on 6 July, but this date was viewed as early due to the prolonged meetings of the congress' preparatory committee under leader Yasir 'Arafat as well as other committees, especially the military, the mobilization, and the organization committees. Therefore, it has been decided in principle that the general congress will open on 10 July although this date is not ideal, mainly because 'Id al-Adha will start on 13 or 14 July. Moreover, preparing the list of those who have the right to participate in the work of the congress took much time. 'Arafat expects only 350 officials to attend the congress due to the absence of officials in the Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian arenas.

Prominent sources in the movement told AL-ANBA' that the figure may reach 900 or more, although many names were deleted from the lists, which were prepared by a group of specialized organizations in Fatah. This indicates the expansion of the movement's bases and frameworks, which are the backbone of the PLO.

Fatah sources added that the committee chairmed by Yasir 'Arafat approved the deletion of the names of many members belonging to the dissident movement, which was created following the departure of the Palestinian forces from Lebanon in 1982, as well as the group of Abu-al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah]. However, the source said, those who left the dissident group and rejoined the movement were readmitted. These include Ribhi 'Awad, PLO ambassador to Kenya, and Kamal al-Shaykh, who is working in the PLO's Political Department. But others were dismissed, although they are working in the PLO's departments. These include Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Abu-al-Za'im, Abu-Khalid al-'Amlah, and Abu-Akram [not further identified], all of whom belong to the military wing; and Mahmud al-Labadi, former official in charge of foreign imformation, Abu -alih [Nir Salih], and Qadri [Samih Abu-Kuwayk], former PLO Executive Committee members.

The second question facing the Fatah movement leadership is the Arab capital that will host the fifth congress. It seems that no decision has been made pending contacts to be made by 'Arafat in person. However, members of the Fatah Revolutionary Council named four capitals: Baghdad, Algiers, Sanaa, and Tunis. At the same time, they prefer Tunis for several considerations that they have not yet clarified. It is noteworthy that Algiers hosted the Palestine National Council's 19th session 8 months ago on condition that the Fatah movement general congress be convened in Tunis.

The third question that preoccupies the most important Palestinian organization is: Who will represent Fatah in the next few years?

The central committee has lost five members since the movement's fourth congress was convened in 1980. Three of them—namely Majid Sharar, Sa'd Sayil, and Khalil al-Wazir—were martyred, and two—namely Abu-Salih and Qadri—dissented. Only 10 remained in the movement. They are: 'Arafat, Salah Khalaf, Faruq Qaddumi, Mahmud 'Abbas, Khalid al-Hasan, Rafiq al-Natshah, Hani al-Hasan, Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, Salim al-Za'nun, and Muhammad Ghunaym.

Fatah sources also said that during the past days, the movement agreed that the general congress elect 15 members in a purely democratic manner, so that it can be a "congress of challenge," as 'Arafat put it during recent meetings of the Revolutionary Council. In the view of prominent members in the movement, this means fresh blood for the central committee or the Revolutionary Council.

'Abbas To Chair Jordanian-Palestinian Meeting

JN2606171889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jun 89

Meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to support the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied territories will begin here tomorrow, Tuesday.

The Jordanian side to the meetings will be headed by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, while the Palestinian side will be headed by PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, who is expected to arrive in Amman later today.

Palestinian sources have told the INA correspondent in Amman that during its meetings, the joint committee will assess its activities and responsibilities in light of the difficult situation facing the committee's aid fund and the responsibilities it shoulders to confront the oppressive measures carried out by the Zionist enemy against the valiant intifadah [uprising], which has been going on in the occupied territories since December 1987.

The sources explained that the committee will also discuss means to support its resources to strengthen the Palestinian Arab people's steadfastness against the Zionist occupiers.

Al-Najjab Urges Lobbying for World Support

JN2506153689 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
24 Jun 89 pp 1, 17

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has asked the Arab parties concerned to implement the recommendations of the emergency Arab summit held in Morocco stipulating that visits should be made to a number of world capitals to canvas support for the Arab peace plan and to counter and expose Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan, which is not a plan for peace but for war.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, Al-Najjab sharply assailed the U.S. Administration, describing the U.S. position on the Palestinian people's national rights as hostile and recalling the U.S. veto of a UN Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli repression of the Palestinians, despite the support this resolution drew from all other Security Council members.

Al-Najjab noted that despite its isolation even from its friends and allies, the United States remains hypocritical when the issue of human rights is broached. And while it is shedding tears over the rights of the Chinese, it shamelessly insists on its stand at the Security Council when discussing the rights of the Palestinian people, who are struggling to protect themselves against killing and deportation from their homeland.

The Palestinian official emphasized that this U.S. attitude is a clear message to Shamir by which the United States offers protection to the Israeli crimes in the West Bank and Gaza. He added that this is also a message to the Palestinian leadership asking it to either accept the Israeli plan or else face the Israeli machine of repression.

PLO's Kamal on Improved Relations With Syria

JN2606192689 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic
26 Jun 89 p 4

[By 'Abir 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[Text] The PLO representative in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, has told ROSE AL-YUSUF that the PLO wishes to establish normal relations with Syria. He added that these relations should be on an equal footing, not privileged, and not at the expense of the PLO's relations with the other Arab countries.

Sa'id Kamal said tha the Syrian command's invitation to the Palestine National Salvation Front to rejoin the PLO ranks and the release of 140 Palestinian detainees from Syrian jails is a good platform for opening a constructive dialogue between the Syrian and Palestinian commands and for the establishment of good relations between the two Arab peoples.

The PLO representative added that 1,900 Palestinian detainees remain in Syrian jails and the PLO hopes that the recent release of detainees as a result of the meeting between the Palestinian and Syrian presidents on the edge of the Casablanca summit will be followed by other positive steps, consisting of the release of the remaining detainees, and by creating the appropriate atmosphere to improve relations, particularly since dialogue between the two sides has not been interrupted on various levels.

Algeria

Water Riots Reported in Sidi-Aissa 24-25 Jun

LD2606163589 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Algeria: Violent demonstrations took place 48 hours ago at a town situated 200 kilometers south of Algiers. Nearly 1,500 people demonstrated to protest the cutting off of water supplies in the town. The demonstration was a violent one as shops and cars were set on fire. Here are the details from our correspondent in Algiers, Claire Arsenaud-Lers.

[Arsenaud-Lers] The inhabitants of Sidi-Aissa, 200 kilometers south of Algiers, exasperated by the water shortages in their town, went out onto the streets on Saturday and Sunday. A crowd of some 1,500 people attacked public buildings, bombarding the windows with stones. Several vehicles, including cars belonging to the police, were set on fire. Angry demonstrators then erected barricades to block traffic. In the end 13 people were arrested and presented to the public prosecutor's office following these incidents. [passage omitted]

PRC Envoy in Algiers Cited on Executions

LD2706092689 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] In Algiers yesterday, the PRC ambassador spoke about the situation in his country. Discussing the executions, he gave his country's official viewpoint. In his view, these executions affected only criminals. You can hear him answer a question by our colleague, Rashida Souilem:

[Souilem] Mr Ambassador, do you not think that economic reform and opening up to other countries, unaccompanied by democratic overtures, were the (?origin), the real cause of what some would call the Beijing Spring?

[Ambassador—not further identified] The true cause of the [word indistinct] riots in China is the existence of a handful of people who seek to overthrow the CPC and the socialist regime in China, to set up a bourgeois republic in China. This is not permitted. What we are doing is maintaining public order and defending the cause of socialism.

Egypt

President Mubarak Comments on Mideast Issues

NC2306103489 Cairo MENA in English 0800 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, June 23 (MENA)—After a 4-hour tour of the new 6th of October city on the Cairo-Alexandria desert road yesterday, President Husni Mubarak urged citizens to go out to the new urban communities to see for themselves the projects under way and achievements being made for a better future ahead, report the three Cairo, Arabic-language morning dailies in their top billing and leading front-page stories. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question about the intensifying crisis in the occupied Palestinian lands held by Israel and whether he saw signs indicating that Israel would sit at the negotiating table in an international conference on peace in the Middle East, the president said that the parties involved in the Middle East conflict must eventually sit down to negotiate because the issue could not be resolved except by negotiation. He described Israel's actions in the occupied lands, the striking and murder of people, as time wasting because the issue, he said, could be resolved only by negotiations which were the only way to see an end of the conflict. "I hope we would take a short cut by comprehending this and sit right away at the negotiating table," the papers say. President Mubarak was asked whether he had had knowledge about Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's recent statement. The president replied that all his time was taken up by resolving the problems "our country is encountering," and boosting the development and reconstruction process through working out relevant policies and going to production points "to achieve something new for our peoples each day" and to raise the Egyptian people's standard of living. The president said his time was taken up by what "we are doing for our Arab nation's issues of destiny," and that he had no extra time to waste on anything else. [passage omitted]

Ministers' Visits to Khartoum Postponed

JN2606183089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Jun 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] There has been increased tension between Egypt and Sudan over the past 2 days. Cairo has decided indefinitely to postpone visits by Egyptian officials to Khartoum to protest sustained criticism of Egypt by Sudan's Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. This means a postponement of visits to Sudan by Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa. It has also been decided to shelve the signing of a bilateral trade cooperation protocol. Al-Mahdi had intensified his attack on the Egyptian Government for its refusal to extradite deposed President Numayri to face a death sentence. Al-Mahdi charged that Egyptian authorities have allowed Numayri to engage in political activities and talk to the media.

AL-WAFD has learned that President Mubarak gave strict instructions that Egyptian officials desist from commenting on the Sudanese prime minister's statements. President Mubarak himself had refused to comment on Al-Mahdi's statements.

There have been persistent reports in Cairo that for the time being Numayri refuses to leave Egypt for London. He is reported to have declared his wish to remain in

Egypt as a political exile. The deposed Sudanese leader's wife had sought permission from the British authorities for Numayri to be allowed residence and to receive the necessary protection in London.

Prime Minister Sidqi Receives U.S. Ambassador
NC2506220589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Cairo, at his office today. Following the meeting, during which the two officials discussed bilateral economic ties, Dr Sidqi said that the U.S. ambassador has voiced the U.S. Administration's appreciation of the Egyptian policies of economic reforms.

Israeli Parliamentarians Arrive for Visit 26 Jun
NC2706055189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2322 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Elazar Granut, Israeli MAPAM [United Workers Party] secretary general and deputy leader, arrived in Cairo from Israel this evening accompanied by Knesset Member Latif Duri [name as received] on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Consultative Council Elects Speaker 24 Jun
NC2406123389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The Consultative Council held its first session this morning under the chairmanship of the oldest member. The members took the constitutional oath and then elected Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi as speaker. Ahmad al-'Ammawi, representing the workers and farmers group, and Tharwat Abazah, representing the other groups, were elected deputy speakers. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Chief Interviewed on Elections
JN2606191889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 25 Jun 89 p 14

[Interview with Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party, by 'Abd-al-Karim Ya'qub in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ya'qub] Precisely, what do you want as an Egyptian opposition [party]?

[Shukri] We want Egyptian democracy to have its form, fruit, and objectivity because a form without substance will be more damaging than the absence of democracy. Therefore, we support the steps to achieve democracy, which were made with different interpretations. Certain mistakes were made in these steps, and we seek to rectify them. [passage omitted]

The Consultative Council does not have as great an importance or effect on our lives as the People's Assembly or the local councils. However, it is an existing council. This time, the council elections were held according to the individual constituencies system after they were held according to lists—that is the absolute majority—system, which meant that the list that wins 51 percent of the votes wins all seats. We have objected to this since 1981, and we called for boycotting elections to the Consultative Council until the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled that the law for the Consultative Council elections based on the lists—or absolute majority—system is unconstitutional. The law for elections on the basis of individual constituencies then appeared. However, the court made these constituencies large ones, where each includes three of the constituencies used for the People's Assembly elections.

In view of the small importance of the Consultative Council and in view of the Emergency Law—a law introduced at the beginning of World War II in 1939 under the name martial law with courts now know as state security courts, a law that we have always endeavored and looked forward to canceling—the Wafd Party and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party decided not to fight these elections. They also decided not to fight the elections because there were no guarantees that these elections will be honest and free and that organs of the Interior Ministry and regional governments, which work under the supervision of governors, will not interfere in them.

On the other hand, the Socialist Labor Party and the Islamic alliance—the Muslim Brotherhood and the Liberal Party—thought that in spite of these reasons, there is no objection to fighting these elections. [passage omitted]

Certainly, what the opposition is asking for is basically to provide guarantees to ensure that elections will be unbiased and that voters will show up before the committees as demanded by the first judicial conference. They also demand that the Ministry of Justice have full supervision over preparing and conducting elections. The government may claim that this will delay elections, but we say that there is no objection to holding the elections twice to make certain they are honest and free. [passage omitted]

[Ya'qub] How are relations among the opposition parties?

[Shukri] There is no doubt that all of them agree with what I have said. But they may differ on the details, because they work in accordance with their programs and ideological trends. I believe that the parties' existence, growth, and sound representation of certain trends can be achieved only through complete freedom to form parties and not through the government committee stipulated in the parties' law. Over the past 10 years, this committee has not allowed the formation of any new parties or the issuance of any newspapers or magazines. There are five of six groups calling for new parties and newsapapers.

[Ya'qub] What about Islamic trends in Egypt?

[Shukri] Undoubtely there are obvious Islamic trends among the Egyptian people. What they want is not new. [passage omitted] If the government does not pay enough attention to this subject, it will give radical youths a chance to act against the constitutional institutions if they conclude that their abidance by the Constitution is ignored. I also believe that the government is dealing with the Islamic trends harshly or trying to eliminate active elements. This is wrong. It is better for the government to hold more dialogue with these youths, who may lose patience one day and act against the Constitution. I affirm that the Islamic leaderships are trying to hold more dialogue with these youths.

[Ya'qub] Are the Islamic groups seeking power?

[Shukri] This concept or talk about it is acceptable. The majority wants laws and rules guaranteeing freedom of expression and true representation of the people and allowing the people to make decisions. We cannot say that this means a desire to take power.

[Ya'qub] Where is the Socialist Labor Party moving?

[Shukri] The Egyptian Socialist Labor Party's path is sound and clear. It expresses the aspirations of the people. It emerged from Harakat Misr al-Fatat [Young Egypt Movement]. I was the deputy of its leader, Ahmad Husayn. It called for the unification of Egypt and Sudan in one country and then for an alliance between this country and the Arab countries. It also called for the protection of Islam. Individuals and countries can prosper only under Islamic states that apply Islamic law and give a true impression of Islam.

People's Assembly Rejects Court Ruling

NC2606220889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] The People's Assembly, meeting today under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, continued its debate of a number of agreements and draft laws. This morning, acting upon a recommendation by its committee on constitutional and legislative affairs, the People's Assembly rejected a ruling by the administrative court which would have granted assembly membership to 39 of the candidates who contested the recent elections.

The People's Assembly decided that it is the only authority empowered to authenticate or invalidate the membership of any of the people's deputies. The assembly is to resume its meetings tonight.

Islamic Jihad Leader Killed in Bani Suwayf

JN2406162889 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Jun 89 p 1

[By Mustafa 'Abduh]

[Text] Bani Suwayf—Muhammad Husam al-Battuji, a 30-year-old leader of the Islamic Jihad Organization in the Bani Suwayf Governorate, was killed the day before yesterday in a quarrel among members of the organization at the General Hospital.

Lieutenant Colonel Bakri 'Abd-al-'Azim, head of the police station in the area, was informed of the quarrel, which took place following the organization leader's visit to Sharif Qarni, a member who was wounded in another quarrel a week ago. When the leader of the organization left the hospital, a group of the organization attacked and killed him.

The medical report affirms that he was stabbed several times in the upper abdomen and lower chest. As a result, his intenstines came out; his scalp also suffered deep wounds.

The quarrel also resulted in the wounding of Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Atiyah, 19; 'Imad Ahmad Khalil, 22; and Ahmad 'Abbas 'Abd-al-'Aziz, 24. All of them were supporters of the killed leader. Major General 'Abd-al-Hamid Jaballah, public security deputy commander, and Brigadier General Salih 'Isa, director of the criminal department, went to the scene of the incident. Bani Suwayf State Prosecutor 'Abd-al-Majid started an investigation, and Public Prosecutor Muhammad Imam ordered that the body be buried.

Agreement With IMF Expected 'This Week'

NC2606155289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi met today with the IMF delegation which is currently visiting Cairo. Following the meeting, Dr Sidqi said that there has been a positive development in the talks with the IMF. Dr Sidqi added that, thanks to the economic reforms undertaken in Egypt, international organizations have become more sympathetic to the Egyptian situation.

An agreement with the IMF is expected in the course of this week. Dr 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, director of IMF Middle East operations [title as heard], is heading the IMF delegation.

Paper Views Agreement

JN2406140689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Jun 89 pp 1, 4

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] The new final agreement between Egypt and the IMF has been postponed for 2 months. The IMF mission has requested that discussions be held with the IMF Council of Governors in Washington on the amendments Egypt has introduced in the economic reform plan for approval. The agreement is expected to be signed in early September. Egypt had reversed its request to obtain new loans from the IMF and requested rescheduling its debts to creditor countries as of 1 July 1988 until this July. The IMF mission criticized the figures of the new state budget and said that the subsidy and deficit figures are wrong and that the actual deficit will exceed 11 billion pounds and not 6 billion pounds as the budget figures say. The mission also leveled severe criticism of

the government's slowness in ending diversity in the exchange rates. It referred to the presence of four rates: The black market rate, the banking sector rate, the central bank grouping's rate, and the customs' rate. The mission also warned of the possible rise in the dollar's price in coming months as a result of fluctuation in the dollar's prices.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi will hold a meeting today with the IMF mission to resume negotiations and to try to end differences over the economic reform plan. The government is currently trying to set a date for new increases in bank interest rates. These increases are estimated to be 2 percent and are expected to take effect by the end of this year. The IMF has strongly criticized the government for its recent increases. The IMF mission affirmed that this percentage does not encourge hard currency savings in Egyptian banks. The Egyptian Government has agreed to the mission's request for 25 percent, and discussions are under way to set a date for the forthcoming increases.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly Comments on Issues

NC2606074589 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has linked the Lebanese question and the Palestinian cause, saying if the aim is to liquidate the cause, as seems obvious, then the Lebanese wound must be kept open to facilitate the enemy's movement.

Al-Qadhdhafi noted that if inter-Lebanese differences continue, no one can help Lebanon, adding that the option is definite: A unity with Syria or internal accord.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR newspaper published today, Al-Qadhdhafi expressed the view that Syria is under siege and the pressure on it is culminating. He said Syria is the last bastion and pan-Arab duty calls upon us to help defend it and to secure the requirements of its steadfastness. He said Lebanon unfortunately will pay a high price for Arab impotence in confronting the Zionist enemy.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that the Casablanca Arab summit was aimed at passing deviationist policies and policies of selling out. He criticized Mr Yasir 'Arafat for his approval of UN Resolution 242. He noted that 'Arafat originally came to power in the name of the revolution and by protesting the Arab countries' policies which had wasted Palestine. He noted that 'Arafat has undermined the cause in the presence of the ridiculous official Arab pretext which says: This is a matter for the Palestinians to decide. He added that the heresy of independent national decisionmaking is what paved the way to deviation.

Interview Denied

LD2606101189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0932 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Jun (JANA)—We have been surprised by an interview published by the Lebanese AL-SAFIR allegedly conducted with the brother leader of the revolution. JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution has not made any statement following the Casablanca emergency Arab summit, apart from an interview with the Japanese television network. While we deny the existence of this interview, we express our regret that AL-SAFIR should embark on an action that is incompatible with journalism's ethics, and should fabricate an interview that never took place.

Envoy Reportedly Pays 'Secret Visit' to U.S.

NC2706060089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] The Paris-based AL-WATAN newspaper revealed in its edition yesterday that a special emissary of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi recently paid a secret visit to the United States, during which he met with U.S. Government representatives. The paper added that the Libyan leader has recently been making great efforts to prove to the United States that he has renounced terrorism.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Numaryi, Relations With Egypt

EA2606192489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1614 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26 June (SUNA)—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stated that it is expected that ousted President Numayri has left Egypt. The premier said in a press statement here today that Numayri's departure from Egypt is a step in the correct way for remedying the distinguished Sudanese-Egyptian relations. The premier added that the Sudanese authorities asked for Numayri's extradition to be tried in the Sudan, but finally asked for his expulsion from Egypt as his presence there hampers the distinguished relations between the two countries.

Paper Says Numayri To Operate From Chad

EA2606125089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 25 Jun (SUNA)—Today's AL-AYYAM says the government has received through diplomatic channels an official letter from the Egyptian Government concerning the ousted President Numayri. The paper says that the letter, which was a subject of high-level discussion, will be officially answered by the premier, who will explain the Sudanese point of view. Meanwhile official quarters are silent about the contents of the letter and of the reply. [passage omitted]

According to investigations by AL-AYYAM, the African country referred to by Numayri in his press statement is Chad, since he believes that the situation between Sudan and Chad is so explosive that he can conduct anti-Sudan activities from Chadian soil, trading on Chad's accusation that Sudan is harboring the leaders of the foiled coup.

Meanwhile, Numayri's recent activities against Sudan from his Cairo residence were the subject of discussion at a meeting between the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and the Al-Ummah Party signatories to the ruling coalition, held here on the evening of 22 June. In a news statement after the meeting, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, of the DUP, said it had been agreed to settle the question of these activities with the Egyptian authorities.

Egypt's Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir To Receive Asylum
NC2406191689 Paris AFP in English 1909 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, June 24 (AFP)—Sudan plans to give political asylum to Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir, the son of the former Egyptian president who has been linked to a series of terrorist attacks in Cairo, the daily AL-SIYASAH reported Saturday.

The report, which quoted reliable sources, said Mr. 'Abd-al-Nasir was currently in Yugoslavia and would travel to Sudan soon to be greeted with a "warm and popular welcome."

The newspaper, which is close to the governing Al-Ummah Party of Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, said that Mr. 'Abd-al-Nasir had rejected several similar offers of asylum from various Arab countries.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Nasir has been charged in Egypt with financing a clandestine group known as the Revolution of Egypt which has carried out a number of attacks against U.S. and Israeli diplomats in Cairo, and Egyptian authorities have called for him to be sentenced in absentia to death.

Relations between Sudan and Egypt worsened sharply following the announcement last Sunday in Khartoum that Sudanese authorities had discovered a plot to overthrow Mr. al-Mahdi's government and install former President Ja'far Numayri in his place.

Mr. Numayri has lived in exile in Egypt since 1985.

Paper Reports More Details on Coup Attempt
EA2306215089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1605 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 June (SUNA)—The daily AL-SIYASAH today revealed more details about the military coup which was aborted a few days ago. The coup was planned to blow up the Constituent Assembly, assassinating all those inside it, also assassinating (?18) partisan leaders, (?26) of the trade unions grouping, a number of the Armed Forces commanders and a number of pressmen. The daily [word indistinct] that all the civilians accused of involvement in the abortive coup had visited former President Numayri in Cairo and were in (?constant) contact with him.

Defense Minister on Interrogation of Officers
NC2506150989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 Jun (MENA)—Major General Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah, the Sudanese defense minister, has stated that the interrogation of the officers detained for participation in the latest coup attempt is continuing. The results of the investigations will be submitted to General Fathi Ahmad, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in the next 2 days. In a statement to the Sudanese paper AL-KHURTUM, the defense minister said that telephone conversations between former President Ja'far Numayri and the Armed Forces command did not contain anything substantive, consisting merely of questions, replies to which were clear.

Meanwhile, the AL-USBU' newspaper published here reports that the interrogation of the detained officers which is currently under way produced new and extremely important information that led to the arrest of another officer. Consequently, 15 officers have now been detained.

In another development, 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, the National Islamic Front secretary general and leader of the Sudanese opposition, has stressed that Gen Ahmad explained to him at a meeting last night, that the arrests were a protective measure, according to information from competent quarters in the Armed Forces. He stressed that the Armed Forces have nothing to do with the detention of civilians. He noted that, during the meeting, Gen Ahmad touched on the possibility of foreign involvement in the coup attempt but said that no evidence was available so far. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

22 Sentenced for Plot To Overthrow Regime

JN2606145689 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 25 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, June 24, (KUNA)—The State Security Court today sentenced 22 people to prison terms ranging between five to 15 years for plotting to overthrow the regime.

The court, under the chairmanship of Justice Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hay al-Bannay, also acquitted 11 suspects, including a British national, Sami Hajij.

The State Security Court began hearing the case on May 13. A total of 33 people, including Kuwaitis, a British national and other stateless persons were on trial and faced charges of conspiring to overthrow the country's regime by illegal means.

Thirteen of the accused were tried in absentia and three others were released pending passage of sentence. Only 17 accused were arraigned before court today.

Of those who stood trial, eight received prison terms of 15 years, a similar number was sentenced to seven years and six to five years in jail. The remainder 11 were acquitted by the court.

The convicts included first accused Sami Jabr 'Abbas al-Badri, codenamed Abu-al-Hassan, and the fifth accused Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzak, alias Muhammad 'Ali Mahdi, who were sentenced to 15 years in jail. The second defendant 'Abdallah 'Isa Ahmad Fayruz was sentenced to 15 years, a fine of KD [Kuwaiti Dinars] 120 and dismissal from job.

Another five accused received 15-year jail terms.

Eight of the convicts were ordered to be deported by court after serving their prison terms.

Eight other accused were convicted by court on two counts and sentenced each to a seven-year term and another six were sentenced to five years imprisonment.

The court also ordered confiscation of all material seized from the accused.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Receives Syrian Foreign Minister

LD2706012989 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques yesterday afternoon received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad pertaining to the work of the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with solving the Lebanese problem. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when he was received by the king at his residence in the Moroccan town of Fez. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the amir of the Riyadh region, and His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

United Arab Emirates

Dubayy-Bandar-e 'Abbas Air Route Opened

JN2606150489 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 Jun 89 pp 1, 18

[Text] Dubayy, WAM—Emirates Airlines' new route between Dubayy and the Iranian city of Bandar-e 'Abbas was opened yesterday when an Emirates plane last night left Dubayy airport on its first flight on this route.

There will be two flights a week between Dubayy and Bandar-e 'Abbas with the return journey on the same day. The plane will carry 270 passengers.

Sultan Diyab Saqr, assistant director general of Emirates Airlines, has noted that the occupancy rate was 100 precent for the first flights and for many weeks to come.

The new route is the airlines' 14th route since it began operations in October 1985.

Bandar-e 'Abbas is the second route to be opened by Emirates Airlines this year, after the Jeddah route, which was opened in late March.

Yemen Arab Republic

Premier Interviewed on Unity, Other Issues

JN2506075089 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 23 Jun 89 p 46, 47

[Interview with North Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date, not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] How optimistic are you about the steps taken today toward uniting the two parts of the Yemen within the framework of your Arab strategy?

['Abd-al-Ghani] I am extremely optimistic about the steps taken today to pave the way for Yemeni unity. I am positive that we will see unity realized soon. Yemeni unity is the noblest goal of the Yemeni people. The Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] is working toward realizing this goal. There are serious steps between the two parts of the Yemen to realize Yemeni unity. These steps are represented in finding joint projects between the two parts. The latest of these projects was the joint project for oil excavation. Work is actually proceeding to realize this goal. There are also other joint economic projects. The most important achievement realized in this field is the

constitution project of this future state. Agreement will be reached on proposing it at a specified date to the two leaderships to continue the steps of realizing unity between the two parts which, as I said, will be soon. We consider it a step toward realizing Arab unity.

[Al-Sa'id] Within the framework of your Red Sea strategy, there must be some prominent effort made to support relations with Saudi Arabia. I wonder what your evaluation and concepts of the relations are now, especially after you joined the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], and whether any sensitivities have arisen due to this joining?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We view our relations with fraternal Saudi Arabia as important and on a large scale. What supports this view is that we are two neighborly states joined by language, identity, and joint destiny. Therefore, our relations are very good.

As for joining the ACC, I do not believe that it creates any sensitivities to anyone, especially since we stressed that this council is open to any Arab state to join. We should not forget that the brothers in Saudi Arabia are members in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. We sincerely believe that the Arab and Gulf Cooperation Councils and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] form links in the general chain of the Arab nation. In other words, all these councils complement each other and work for the interest of the entire Arab nation.

[Al-Sa'id] Within the framework of the region's countries overcoming any political barriers to realize security in the Red Sea region, do you believe there are any difficulties or sensitivities toward setting up a regional organization of the Red Sea basin countries, which are united by vital joint interests, foremost of which is pan-Arabism and securing peace, sovereignty, and independence?

['Abd-al-Ghani] To start with, there should be no sensitivity. However, I do not feel that there is a great need now to think about forming a regional organization. If need does not dictate that now, it should be one of the tasks of the future, especially since all the states on the Red Sea are responsible for the security, stability, and safety of the Red Sea. There is in fact cooperation between the eastern and western Red Sea littoral states. I believe there is no need, at least for the present, to set up an organization which would unite all the Red Sea states, especially since the past witnessed meetings of the majority of these states. In addition, relations between all these states are good.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean there could be some sort of bilateral coordination within the framework of safeguarding the Red Sea from any dangers or threats?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, such coordination is necessary and significant. I can state that the YAR maintains good relations with all the Red Sea littoral states.

[Al-Sa'id] Could Saudi Arabia be specifically mentioned in this regard in view of its undeniable impact and important presence in any cooperation with the Red Sea basin states?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We maintain extremely good relations with the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The same applies to our relations with Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, South Yemen, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia.

[Al-Sa'id] Back to the subject of unity between the northern and southern parts of Yemen, I would like to say that if steps are in full swing to achieve unity between the two Yemens, would there be no fear that ideological differences might block the conclusion of such a unity?

['Abd-al-Ghani] I do not think the ideological aspect is an obstacle. As I have said, unity is the most sublime objective of the Yemeni people. Therefore, committees were formed to reunite the two parts. They were specialized in the economic, social, security, cultural, and almost all other spheres. Most important among them was the constitutional committee.

The unity constitution gives such special status to the state of unity that it satisfies the Yemeni masses both in the north and south. This constitution does not deviate from the people's basic beliefs. It is also a constitution that will bring about a political, economic, military, and cultural development of Yemen. It will underline and entrench the principle of relations with other states, be they sisterly or friendly. This, in fact, does not part from the policy currently adopted by the two parts of Yemen.

[Al-Sa'id] This means there are no obstacles.

['Abd-al-Ghani] No obstacles at all.

[Al-Sa'id] Have you embarked on uniting the northern and southern parts of Yemen as an urgent need within the context of arriving at a unified strategy for the Red Sea and Horn of Africa states and for the sake of South Yemen's strategic position on Bab el Mandeb?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The two Yemens are actually participating in Bab el Mandeb. Bab el Mandeb is shared by the YAR and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, or between the northern and southern parts as we say. Accordingly, reponsibility for Bab el Mandeb, especially the eastern part of it, is jointly assumed by the two parts. Bab el Mandeb is naturally a common strait between us and our neighbors on the western coast of the Red Sea. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Bab el Mandeb littoral states on both sides of the Red Sea to protect it.

[Al-Sa'id] There are those who believe that the strategic importance of the Red Sea and its growth require strategic organization on our part and a clear economic concept. What is your opinion on that?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Concerning the security and stability of the Red Sea, I believe it is the joint responsibility of its littoral states. However, we believe that passage through it should be free for all states. This is guaranteed at present in accordance with international norms. There is nothing new required on this issue. However, it should be pointed out that in the interest of all the countries in the Red Sea region it is important that no nuclear ships pass through before obtaining permission or a pass. As for the economic concept, that is also required for the Red Sea states. If what is understood by that is exploiting the Red Sea resources, then there are studies being carried out in this field. There actually was a discussion between some states, if not all of them, to reach agreement on exploiting the riches of the Red Sea. For example, we have companies currently prospecting for oil. There are some companies prospecting off the Ethiopian coast. Egypt also prospected for oil in the Gulf of Suez. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] The political importance of the ACC, whose next summit will be held on 25 September in Sanaa, will become evident since it is no less important than the economic importance. If the front put up by its countries is purely economic, its deeper contents are political in the first degree. Do you agree with me?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Without closeness in the political viewpoints in the first place between the four countries, the ACC would not have come about as a natural product of the strong and firm relations which united its member countries. The greatest evidence of the depth of relations are the joint committees between the prime ministers of these countries even before the ACC was formed. This, in addition to the fact that there is coordination, discussion, and understanding between the leadership and the various levels of the Council's countries. Therefore, the formation of the Council was natural. The economic aspect is an important aspect of the relations between the ACC countries. The Council pays great attention to economic growth since it has great importance as far as the Council's countries are concerned. However, in general, economic strength is reflected as political strength and vice versa. We cannot distinguish between them, even if the political side was the more important base for forming this council because, had it not been for the understanding and political closeness between the Council's countries to start with, the ACC would not have been established. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] If the basis of the Council is to build the structure on economic foundations through which it would be possible to achieve the pan-Arab strategic goal of the Arab nation as far as development is concerned, could one say that, at the same time, inherent in the Council is a security characteristic?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Of course. Those countries, which have reached this level of coordination and established the ACC, would undoubtedly regard the security aspect as one of the issues to be considered. If the security aspect is not present, then the economic and other aspects over which the Council cooperate, would not be present. The security aspect is important and basic to support and promote relations between these countries.

Paper Cited on 'Resupplying Iran With Weaponry'
JN2706102089 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 27, INA—The Baghdad daily AL-THAWRAH has said Iran builds its plans on wrong bases whose consequences may endanger stability and safety in the region.

In a commentary published here today, the paper added that the Iranian aggression had been defeated, its war machinery was crushed, and the expansionist scheme was destroyed. However, the Iranian rulers' intentions were still standing and this is clear through their entire political, military, and tactical behaviours despite the disgraceful defeat they had sustained.

AL-THAWRAH stressed that the Iranian rulers had not launched their aggression and escalated their war against Iraq and the region on the grounds of bosh and ignorance, but they leaned on a huge military arsenal, worth billions of dollars, inherited from the former shah regime.

The newspaper said it was necessary to look into those stances which would encourage the Iranian rulers in their hostile stands and distancing them from peace, construction, development and stability.

It added that those who would re-supply Iran with weaponry, whether through black or official markets, would be counting on wrong calculations and fueling fire of the Iranian aggressions no matter what their intentions were.

AL-THAWRAH disclosed that Iran's purchasing and stockpiling of weapons and reinforcement of its armed forces with new volunteers and reservists, according to war policy, confirmed that its ill-intentions were still standing.

As regards Iraq's attitude towards peace, the paper said Iraq, being strong and victorious, had inaugurated the post-war stage in word and deed through demobilization of more than 200,000 troops since the ceasefire was reached a year ago, dissolving the 1st Army Corps, reconstructing the southern Iraqi city of al-Basrah and setting to rebuild the southern Iraqi town of al-Faw, the two areas being within the range of Iran's artillery.

London Embassy Issues Statement on Border
JN2606133689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] London, 26 Jun (INA)—The Iraqi Embassy in London has announced that measures have been taken to set up an isolated, unpopulated zone along Iraq's borders with both Turkey and Iran.

In a statement published here today, the embassy states that these measures aim to relieve residents of the border areas of the suffering to which they were subjected during the 8-year war with Iran.

The statement asserts that residents of those areas were subjected to aggression and extortion by the treacherous cliques and savage shelling and destruction lasting for the 8 years of war with Iran.

The Iraqi Embassy's statement states that the Iraqi Government has decided that the isolated area should extend to a maximum distance of 30 km from the 1200-km plus borders.

The statement asserts that this measure will not be limited to the Kurdistan autonomous region but will include all central and southern Iraqi areas. The measure will include the governorates of al-Basrah, Maysan, Wasit, Diyala, al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and Dahuk with the exception of the cities of Khanaqin and Zakhu since the first is the border gateway to Iran and the latter is the border gateway to Turkey.

The statement issued by the Iraqi Embassy in London says that to facilitate the move of residents of the areas included in the decision to safer areas and enable them to continue their normal lives, the residents were given cash compensation at a minimum level of 3,000 dinars—more than $9,000—per family in the cities and 1,500 dinars per family in the villages and rural areas.

The statement adds that plots of land were also provided for housing and farming and that committees are now reviewing the value of the compensation, which will increase if the committees are satisfied that more compensation is deserved than has been granted.

The statement asserts that residents of Qal'at Dizah city and the surrounding areas were given compensation three times greater that that given to residents of other cities and villages, whether in the southern or central governorates or in the autonomous region.

The statement adds that the Iraqi Government has granted special compensation to the residents of Qal'at Dizah and nearby villages in appreciation of the damage these residents sustained as a result of the continued Iranian shelling throughout the war, their losses in human lives, and their brave steadfastness in the face of the Iranian aggression and the treacherous collaborators.

It points out that the government's compensation to inhabitants of the city of Qal'at Dizah, numbering 13,500 families, amounts to 10,000 dinars, equivalent to 30,000 dollars for each family.

The compensation granted to the 1,780 families residing in the nearby villages amounts to 5,000 dinars, equivalent to 15,000 dollars, for each family.

The statement affirms that the residents of the city of Qal'at Dizah and the nearby villages were given the right to select their places of residence in the Irbil Governorate, the autonomous center, and al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in the autonomous region. Applications for this purpose were distributed to all families in the city and nearby villages.

As a result, 48 percent of the families want to live in the Irbil Governorate, while 52 percent want to live in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

The statement stresses that pieces of land in the two governorates were prepared to be granted to the residents of the city of Qal'at Dizah and its neighboring area.

KDP on Condition of 'Poisoned' Refugees

LD2306195189 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Stockholm, June 23, IRNA—Of the 2,000-plus Iraqi Kurdish refugees fed with poisoned bread by Ba'thist agents in Turkey, 50 are in critical condition, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) announced here Thursday [22 June].

Mas'ud Barzani told IRNA that experts investigating the case are expected to give a final report of their findings by Saturday.

Earlier reports said that the victims were having difficulty in breathing, skin rashes, swelling of eyes and other parts of the body, vomitting blood and suffering convulsions, dizziness, and partial paralysis.

Iraqi agents have previously used Thalium in Yoghurt to kill Kurdish and Islamists who actively oppose the Ba'thist rule in their homeland.

The bread had been distributed by the Mardine Ekmek local bakery in Mardine camp, southeast Turkey on June 7, and the KDP report was confirmed even by Turkish officials.

Barzani, who is in Sweden to attend the socialist international session added "we consider that Turkey is morally responsible for the crime as it had accepted to host the refugees. We expect proper action from Ankara to identifiying the criminals."

The KDP leader whose forces along with several Kurdish and Muslim Arab groups are struggling to rid Iraq of Ba'thist rule, was full of praise for the late leader of the Islamic revolution.

"Imam Khomeyni was a truly great leader," said Barzani.

Saddam Husayn Meets 'Aflaq's Coffin on Arrival

JN2506060089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2224 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—The coffin of the founder leader comrade Michel 'Aflaq, secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, who died in Paris from critical illness, arrived in Baghdad after midnight last night on board a special plane.

The coffin of the deceased of the party and the Arab nation was accorded an official government and party reception headed by comrade Saddam Husayn, deputy secretary general of the party.

Those also taking part in the reception were: Shibli al-'Aysami, assistant secretary general of the party; members of the Revolution Command Council; comrade members of the party national and regional commands; government ministers; and other leading party members.

When the special plane carrying the coffin landed at the airport, comrade Saddam Husayn and other Party leaders carried the coffin of the deceased of the party and the Arab nation, founder leader comrade Michel 'Aflaq, on their shoulders to a special car. His excellency comrade Saddam Husayn laid a wreath on the coffin, which was then driven in a solemn motorcade to the place where it will lie in state until the funeral, which is due to take place tomorrow, Monday.

Comrade Saddam Husayn and the comrade members of the party national and regional commands then read the first sura of the holy Koran in prayer for the repose of the soul of the loss of the party and the Arab nation.

The coffin carrying the deceased was accompanied on the flight from Paris by the relatives of the deceased and several party national command members.

Chadian Foreign Minister Leaves Baghdad 23 Jun

JN2306172589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Jun (INA)—Chadian Foreign Minister Acheik Ibn-Oumar and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following a several-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Confers With Algerian Minister

JN2406154389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolu[illegible] Command Council member and first deputy prim[illegible]ister, today received Nadir Benmaati, Algerian min[illegible] of construction and urban planning, who conveyed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's greetings to President leader Saddam Husayn as well as Algeria's desire to expand cooperation with fraternal Iraq in all areas.

The first deputy prime minister asked the Algerian minister to convey President leader Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother President Chadli Bendjedid. He also conveyed the gratitude of President leader Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership and people for fraternal Algeria's contribution to the reconstruction of the city of al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and great victory—a contribution which reflects the close relations and stresses the one Arab fact.

The Algerian minister affirmed that President Chadli Bendjedid had received with satisfaction President leader Saddam Husayn's call for an Algerian contribution to the reconstruction of this city, stressing that this contribution is a medal of honor for every Arab and that it is a pan-Arab duty to build the edifice of heroism and sacrifice, which were demonstrated by the Iraqis with their blood.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to expand economic and trade cooperation as a result of the two fraternal countries' mutual desire to expand that cooperation.

The meeting was attended by the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

Finance Minister Returns From Geneva, Bonn

JN2506071489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—Minister of Finance Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif returned to Baghdad this evening after heading the Iraqi delegation in the meetings of the fifth round of the Iraqi-Swiss Committee which concluded its work in Geneva yesterday.

The finance minister informed INA that positive results were reached to develop bilateral economic cooperation and expand joint horizons through concluding technical, economic, and financial agreements between the two sides.

He pointed out that the Iraqi delegation, during its visit to the FRG, attended two economic seminars organized by the German-Iraqi Friendship Organization in Bonn on the scope of future cooperation between Iraq and the FRG. The Iraqi delegation included representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Military Industrialization, Health, Agriculture and Irrigation, and Housing and Reconstruction and from the Iraqi central bank.

Cabinet Freezes Comodities, Services Prices

JN2406203089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] During its session on 18 June, the Council of Ministers decided to freeze the prices of commodities and services of the socialist sector for one year. This decision came in light of the Revolution Command Council's decision No 379 issued on 18 June regarding increase in the salaries of government employees as well as military and public security personnel as of 1 July.

Oil Minister on Majnun Islands' Oil Reserve

JN2506135889 Baghdad INA in English 1335 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 25, INA—Mr. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, minister of oil, announced that the southern Iraq Majnun Islands have a proven reserve of 30 billion barrels of crude oil.

In a statement to INA marking the elapse of one year on the liberation of the islands from the grip of the Iranian invading troops, Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the oil reserve extends underground to a distance of 60 km inside the Iraqi territories, covering vast areas of al-Huwayzah marshlands.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim described the area as a giant field which has oil in every shallow depth "in some areas very close to earth surface," while in other areas oil lays thousands of meters underground.

The minister added that the field also has natural gas and crude oil, all inside Iraqi territory, of different density.

He said that following the liberation of the area, Iraqi technical bodies took immediate measures to protect the oil wells from any possible threat as the Majun oil field is close to the Iraqi-Iranian borders.

He denied Iranian allegation that the Iranians were able to produce oil from these wells during their occupation. He said that the wells were fully and well capped, making it impossible for the Iranians to produce oil.

He added that all the wells in the oil field were recaptured intact though millions of shells fell on them during the war.

Paper on 'Contradictions' in Rabin Words, Deeds

TA2306180889 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Jun 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Rabin Between Statements and Deeds"]

[Text] Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said during a Knesset debate 2 days ago that "Israel is facing a conflict with most Palestinians, that there are no magic cures for ending the intifadah [uprising], and that application of the policy of deportation will not end the intifadah because it must be addressed by political means."

Despite the clarity in the remarks by Rabin, who is regarded as the official with primary responsibility for Israeli practices in the occupied territories because the Ministry of Defense is the source of decisions that concern the West Bank and Gaza, Rabin's statement is in fundamental contradiction to the letter he sent to the Israeli minister of justice and the attorney general in which he called for the introduction of measures to facilitate the processes of deportation, administrative detention, and demolition of houses.

Hours before Rabin's statement in the Knesset, the Israeli High Court of Justice approved the decision by the Central Command commander to deport 'Akif al-Hamdallah and Taysir Nasrallah, two al-Najah University students, who will join a number of other Palestinians whose deportation was approved by the high court of justice last week.

Herein lies the fundamental contradiction between deeds and statements, and between talk about a political solution and continuation of practices and measures that do not serve the efforts that have been exerted to launch the peace process in the region.

A political settlement means that the parties involved in the conflict must understand the need to get out of the squares of the "zero game" [as published] in which there is a loser and a winner, and should pave the way to finding a political equation that ensures a gain for all the parties.

The time has come to incorporate the Middle East region into the era of international detente, which is based on the ingredients of cooperation, rationality, justice, and equilibrium. We believe that the decisions on deportations, administrative detentions, and other measures do not serve this tendency.

Peacemaking in the region means building a better future and creating conditions for a decent and safe life for all the region's nations. The parties in the conflict must realize that the framework of international relations in the new era is based on the principles of cooperation, peace, and renouncing of wars and their disasters.

Shamir—Political Initiative 'Saved Israel'

TA2306132989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister said that the political initiative has saved Israel from the danger that the United States would be led astray by the European states that support the convening of an international conference.

Now the administration in Washington is searching for partners in the peace initiative instead of occupying itself with the international conference.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Shamir made these statements to Likud Central Committee members during a meeting in his bureau.

Shamir added that he has authority to dismiss ministers who speak out against the government's policy. At this stage, however, he has no desire to take any actions that might harm the Likud's unity, such as dismissing this or that minister.

'Full' U.S. Support Seen

TA2706044789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has denied that the United States is not fully behind his peace initiative and said contacts are continuing with European leaders. He spoke to reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin Shamir recording] We have full support for our initiative, our peace initiative, from the United States, and it is done, it is expressed very explicitly by the President of the United States, by the secretary of state, by the Congress of the United States.

Well, in Europe it's not the same attitude. Europe is quite, for a long time, they are against our positions. We continue to have a constant dialogue with the various European countries. We try to convince them and we are exposed to their attempts to convince us. [end recording]

Shamir on Elections, E. Jerusalem, Soviet Jews

TA2606142589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the plan for elections in the territories is more important for publicity purposes than for practical ones. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that in a discussion at the Foreign Affairs and Defense Knesset Committee, the prime minister said that the candidates for the elections will be elected for clearly defined posts, not a parliament. Those elected will administer the residents' lives in the framework of autonomy and will later negotiate with us to settle the whole dispute.

Mr Shamir noted that the initiative does not mention Jerusalem and it does not deal with the participation of the residents of East Jerusalem in the elections. In an answer to Tehiya Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen, the prime minister said that he had agreed to East Jerusalem residents' voting in the elections and that he will make more concessions. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 26 June repeats this report, rewording the previous sentence as follows: "The prime minister was answering Tehiya Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen, who said that he has agreed that the residents of East Jerusalem should vote in the elections and that he would make more concessions."]

The prime minister also said that from the beginning of this year, some 21,000 Jews have left the USSR, but only 2,000 of them have emigrated to Israel. The U.S. Administration has been very active in the Jews getting approval to leave the USSR. The pressure resulted in elections, and soon new legislation is expected to allow Jews to leave. The United States will allow thousands to enter its territory. According to estimations, some 50,000 Jews will come to Israel annually. It is unclear whether the immigration wave will start this year or next.

Mr Shamir further said that Israel has increased its activity in the USSR, and noted that the bans imposed on Jewish education and immigration activities have been loosening up.

U.S. Said To Guarantee East Jerusalem Status

TA2706080789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Jun 89 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] The United States is prepared to offer guarantees that the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the elections in the territories will not affect Israel's sovereignty over the city.

The U.S. Administration has recently transmitted to Israel an unequivocal message to this effect. This is the first time that the United States is announcing its readiness to promise that there will be no change in East Jerusalem's status or the political status quo as a result of the inclusion of East Jerusalem residents in the elections. This is intended to bolster Shamir on the eve of the Likud Central Committee's vote on his political plan. [passage omitted]

Shamir-Palestinian Talk Plans in 'High Gear'

TA2706090389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jun 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir plans to launch a series of talks with the political leadership in the territories as early as the end of next week, immediately after the Likud Central Committee meeting. Senior defense establishment sources are currently busy preparing for these talks. The Palestinian side will be represented by senior activists in the territories identified with most of the political bodies, including Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah.

Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, confirmed this report in a conversation with MA'ARIV last night. He admitted that the preparations are in high gear and that the dialogue will begin as early as late next week. "The prime minister will have to make the time to deal with the issue intensively to promote the process and the elections initiative," he said.

The technical work involved in arranging the meetings is being carried out by the body coordinating government activities in the territories under Shmu'el Goren and through the Civil Administration offices in the various districts.

MA'ARIV has learned that the meetings will be held under a thick veil of secrecy to enable both sides to be open and to spare the Palestinian personalities who represent minority views any pressure. At the same time, the notables from the territories who will be invited to the meetings will be told from the outset that these are meetings with the prime minister. Previously, the defense establishment would summon public figures from the territories for meetings with senior Israeli officials without informing them in advance who would be sitting at the other side of the table. This time the intention is to avoid giving the Palestinians the feeling that they are being humiliated and to make them feel that Israel treats them with due respect.

Most of the leaders from the territories have traveled abroad over the past few weeks to coordinate positions with the Palestinian leadership. They held preparatory talks with senior Palestinian representatives in Britain, Egypt, France, and the United States. Among the personalities from the territories who were involved in these contacts are: Faysal al-Husayni; Dr Sari Nusaybah; Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the head of the journalists association; AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah; Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Gaza Strip Red Crescent branch; and others. Their travel had been coordinated with, and approved by, the defense establishment.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will present his political initiative as one entity, explaining that the articles in the plan and the elections are inseparable. Although East Jerusalem residents will probably also participate in the talks, Mr Shamir will make it clear that the residents of that city will not be permitted to vote or be elected. He will insist that the purpose of the elections is to set up an "administrative council" (the executive), which will undertake management of everyday matters in the territories in clearly-defined spheres.

The Palestinian representatives will emphasize that no distinction can be drawn between them and the PLO leadership, which represents the entire Palestinian people, and that a formula that will establish this link will have to be found. According to one proposal, the elected representatives will be included in the Palestine National Council and the PLO executive. If, however, Israel objects to this, the option of setting up a Palestinian body akin to the World Zionist Organization, which will not be directly affiliated with the PLO, will be considered.

No Added Measures Planned in Wake of Kidnapping

TA2506104189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Israel does not intend to increase supervision of representatives of international volunteer organizations operating in the territories following the Chris George affair, senior defense sources told our correspondent Arye Gus.

The sources said Israel has close working relationships with the international organizations, which operate in coordination with the authorities. Our correspondent points out that there are some 20 international organizations operating in the territories, most on a very small scale.

Al-Saftawi Permitted To Travel to Egypt

TA2706090589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jun 89 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] After much hesitation and serious thinking, the defense establishment and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have decided to permit As'ad al-Saftawi, a leading Gaza Strip notable, to depart for Egypt to present his peace initiative to Egyptians and Palestinians. Yesterday Al-Saftawi met with Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, in the office of Brigadier General Arye Shiffman, the head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip. He was told that the defense establishment has no objection to his traveling to Egypt. Nonetheless, he was warned against holding meetings with elements hostile to Israel and against engaging in subversive activity or in the transfer of money into the Gaza Strip. He plans to leave for Cairo in the next few days. [passage omitted]

MAPAM's Granot Leaves for Egypt for Talks

TA2706104689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Jun 89 p 2

[Excerpts] ITIM—MAPAM [United Workers Party] Secretary General El'azar Granot left for Cairo last night for working meetings with senior members of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party on the establishment of full reciprocal ties between the two parties. The visit was initiated by the Egyptian National Democratic Party, which became a full member of the Socialist International last week, in no small measure thanks to MAPAM's support for its acceptance. The visit will last 3 days. [length of visit as published] [passage omitted]

No meeting with President Mubarak has been set for the MAPAM delegation as of yet, but observers expect that one may well take place.

Alleged Fatah Kidnapping Plan Uncovered

TA2606121989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jun 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Hayim Broida]

[Excerpts] A scheme by a senior PLO official from Nabulus to kidnap a foreign ambassador or an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier has been uncovered.

The man, Nabil Ahmad Salim 'Aqub, 43, head of Fatah's military wing in Nabulus, was captured by security forces about 6 weeks ago.

Salim 'Aqub was on the security forces wanted list since the start of the intifadah [uprising]. Much effort was invested in capturing him, as well as another man, Sabih Husayni Sharif Qalbuna, 34, who had the title of deputy commander of Fatah's military wing in Nabulus.

Only now that the indictments against them and others have been presented to the Nabulus military court has part of their plans become known.

The indictment, being presented by Captain Ronen Qatzaf, the chief military prosecutor in Samaria, reveals a small part of the work methods of the Fatah supreme command.

One of the charges in the indictment is linked to the murder of soldier Binyamin Meisner in the Nabulus casbah, who was killed when a block was thrown at his head from the roof of a building. When his murderers were captured following intensive searches, the defendants conferred and plotted to abduct an Israeli soldier.

The kidnapping was to have taken place in the Netanya area or near the village of Dayr Sharaf. The aim was to hold the soldier hostage until Israel would agree to their demand to release Meisner's murderers. The plan was not carried out because the security forces arrested the Fatah leadership in Nabulus.

One of the contacts between the Fatah leadership in Nabulus and that in Jordan was Muhammad Rafiq Mahmud 'Aqub, 53, also a Nabulus resident. Mahmud 'Aqub, a truck driver who had a license to cross into Jordan, is the brother of Da'ud 'Aqub, a senior Fatah official in Jordan. [passage omitted]

In order to encourage new recruits and give them a feeling of security, Da'ud 'Aqub told his brother Mahmud that if they were caught, he personally would organize the kidnapping of a foreign ambassador and demand their release in return for his freedom.

Yeshiva Head on 'Dangerous, Fanatic' Movement

TA2606115589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] The head of the Har 'Ezyon Yeshiva, Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital, says a dangerous and fanatic new underground movement is forming in the ranks of Gush Emunim.

In an interview, 'Amital said members of the underground do not accept the rule of law or the authority of rabbis and act according to their own laws. Rabbi 'Amital said the underground comprises settlers from Judaea and Samaria.

Gush Emunim Denies Claim

TA2606164489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Yitzhaq Armoni, the Gush Emunim Movement secretary general, rejects the claim raised by Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital, the head of Har 'Ezyon Yeshiva, alleging that a new, dangerous, and fanatic underground movement is being formed in the Gush Emunim hothouse. Armoni called on Rabbi 'Amital to hand over all the information he has to the defense authorities. Speaking with our correspondent Moti Amir, Armoni said that he regrets the fact that a scholar and an educator in Israel reduces himself to the level of groundless slander.

2 Jews Sentenced for Throwing Stones at Arab Car

TA2506132389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] The Beersheba District Court today sentenced two 17-year-old youths from Netivot and Moshav Zeru'a in the Negev to 5 months in prison, with an additional 12-month suspended sentence.

The youths were convicted of throwing stones at an Arab car and injuring a Palestinian woman.

Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that Yehoshu'a Pilpel gave the youths a heavy sentence and justified his decision by saying it is necessary to put a stop to this phenomenon and show that law and order is upheld throughout Israel.

2 Murdered in Qezi'ot; Youth Dies of Injuries

TA2706085489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Two detainees were murdered last night in the Negev prison of Qezi'ot: Mahmud 'Abd-Jalil and 'Ali Rashad Hijazi, both from the Gaza Strip. A detainee admitted he had carried out the two killings. Our correspondents Arye Gus and Karmela Menashe report that the murders are believed to be retribution for collaboration with the authorities.

In recent weeks, two detainees were murdered in Qezi'ot and an attempt was made to murder another for similar reasons.

In the Gaza Strip's al-Shati' refugee camp last night, a resident suspected of assisting the Israeli authorities was beaten. He was transferred to a Gaza hospital.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 27 June adds that "an Arab youth from the village of 'Idnah in Judaea died last night at al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. The youth had sustained critical injuries in the course of an initiated Israel Defense Forces operation in the village last Saturday."]

1 Slightly Wounded in Bus Stoning; Other Events

TA2706075189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] This morning, stones were thrown at a No 25 bus driving along the Shu'fat road north of Jerusalem. One of the passengers was slightly injured in the face from glass shards. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the passenger was treated on the spot. The police launched searches for the stone throwers.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown this morning at the door of an Arab family's home in Hashomer Street in Haifa. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the firebomb is believed to have been thrown by Arabs.

Israel Lands Administration supervisors this morning demolished two structures built without a license in the western Galilee village of Tamra. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the residents posed no objection to the demolition.

Another Collaborator Murdered; 70 Killed So Far

TA2606192789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] The security forces are investigating the circumstances of the murder of Sabah al-Qadi, a 30-year-old Nabulus resident. Her body was found in the Nabulus casbah this morning. Some 3 months ago, she was

attacked by unidentified persons for suspicion of collaborating with Israeli authorities. She was severely wounded and taken to a hospital in Ramallah. Last night she was brutally murdered.

This is the second murder case of persons suspected of collaboration. Yesterday, the body of a 21-year-old youth was found in a Nabulus school yard. He was murdered with knives and axes.

This puts the number of Arabs who have been murdered in similar circumstances since the beginning of the uprising at 70. Defense sources told our correspondent that many of those murdered had no ties with the Israeli authorities. It has been proven in the past that some of the murders were committed to settle personal disputes under the false pretense of collaboration with Israel.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 26 June adds: "The Beersheba District Court today handed down a life sentence to a resident of Jabalyah. He was convicted of murdering an inmate at the Qezi'ot detention center in April this year after suspecting the latter of collaborating with the prison authorities."]

Rabin on Extending Administrative Detentions
TA2606142889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that extending administrative detentions to last 1 year does not require legislative changes. He said that he addressed the justice minister on the matter only because the issue is sensitive . Minister Rabin was answering an appeal by three Knesset members, all law professors: David Liba'i, Amnon Rubinstein, and Shim'on Shetrit. The three say that extending the administrative detention to a year without trial is in serious contradiction with maintaining the basic values of the rule of law and human rights that no defense requirement could justify.

Knesset Defeats 7 No-Confidence Motions
TA2606201789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] After a 7-hour debate, the Knesset this evening defeated seven no-confidence motions submitted by opposition factions. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 17 Knesset Members [MK's] voted against the motions, 11 supported them, and 4 abstained. Alignment MK Eli Ben-Menahem supported the motions claiming that the economic plan does not include a substantial social overview. Only 25 MK's spoke in the debate.

Muslims Depart for Mecca; Some Turned Back
TA2506074189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Today 5,350 Muslims will begin leaving over the Allenby Bridge on pilgrimage to Mecca. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that 350 of them will be going to Mecca for the first time in their lives.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 25 June in a page 6 report by Oren Kohen adds: "Arab sources have reported that many Tulkarm and Nabulus residents who wanted to go to Mecca were sent back home after being told that their residential areas were closed for travel abroad."]

Al-Qasim Interviewed on Regional Issues

PM2306125189 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Jun 89 pp 22-23

[Unattributed interview with Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] From the Casablanca extraordinary summit on to the Riyadh ordinary summit. Did the extraordinary summit complete the discussion of the Lebanese issue? Did it end the work of the six-member committee? Was what it achieved on Lebanon positive and promising?

[Al-Qasim] The one important issue which necessitated the Casablanca summit was, of course, the Lebanese situation. It was special among the topics discussed. We had three main issues on our agenda: The Lebanese crisis, the Palestinian question, and the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The Lebanese crisis has continued for more than 14 years and it intensified last year. So there was a need for Arab efforts, hence the modest emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers and the formation of the six-member committee. Jordan was honored to shoulder some of the responsibilities of that committee formed to help a genuine Arab country and one of the Arab League's founders. We, in all honesty and sincerity, believe that the six-member committee made some good progress in the period when it was entrusted with studying the Lebanese problem. [passage omitted]

When we went to the Casablanca summit conference new formulas were proposed and a summit-level committee was formed under the chairmanship of the conference chairman, King Hassan II, and membership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who played a major role and showed considerable interest in Lebanon in the past—which is a somewhat reassuring token of seriousness in tackling the Lebanese tragedy and trying to rescue Lebanon from the tragic conditions prevailing there—and Algeria, in the person of President Chadli Bendjedid, which provides added impetus and special interest. This confirms that the Arab world, east and west, is tackling the Lebanese situation in a serious and concerned manner. That, of course, must be based on a pan-Arab concept. That is why we see both the Arab east and the Arab west endeavoring to find fundamental solutions to the Lebanese problems because the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon from bad to worse certainly is a factor of instability not only for that stricken country but potentially for the entire region. Jordan, a country close to Lebanon, would, like Syria and other eastern states, be affected negatively if, God forbid, the Lebanese situation deteriorated, and positively if the Arab leaders managed to calm the situation and put Lebanon in a position that would enable it to regain its health and resume its mission as a major Arab country. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Is the Lebanese problem close to a solution or must we suffer bitterness for a long time?

[Al-Qasim] The Lebanese situation, of course, became very clearly complicated in recent years. For example, we see an Israeli presence in southern Lebanon and an Iranian presence in al-Biqa'. These two factors affect Lebanese and pan-Arab security. Parallel to that, there should be Arab action that would help Lebanon internally and have an impact internationally. The Arab states should ask the Security Council to work and press for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425. The Arab world has a two-fold mission. First it should help the Lebanese achieve, among themselves, the desired accord, which would open new horizons for remedies in Lebanon such as constitutional reforms, a presidential election, and the formation of a government of national unity. All these are Lebanese and Arab-related matters. Then there is the international dimension resulting from the Israeli presence on Lebanese territory. The effective unified Arab stand at international level is bound to bear fruit as far as Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon is concerned.

[AL-HAWADITH] Did the Casablanca conference fulfill its objectives? Could it be regarded as a successful conference in connection with Arab affairs?

[Al-Qasim] The mere fact that the conference was held at all is a gain and success. The conference produced three very clear positive achievements. The first was Egypt's return to its normal place in the Arab world. We believe that the Arab situation deteriorated over the past 10 years because of the estrangement between the Arab states and Egypt. We believe that Egypt's return is an achievement with enormous positive aspects and we are confident that the fruits of that will appear in the future. Egypt has a moderating influence on the Arab world, the nonaligned states bloc, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Organization of African Unity, and also on Europe, the Soviet Union, and the United States. This Egyptian influence carries major benefits for the Arab world.

Another positive achievement was the full support given to the PLO and the person of President Yasir 'Arafat for his brave stand at the Palestine National Council session in Algiers and his famous UN speech in Geneva. [passage omitted]

The third achievement was the unified Arab stance in solidarity with Iraq in the interest of peace between Iraq and Iran. The Iraq-Iran cease-fire brought great joy, but it should not become a permanent condition. The cease-fire should develop into a state of peace based on a treaty signed by and safeguarding the rights of both sides with emphasis on noninterference in domestic affairs. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] How does Jordan at present react to the U.S. views on the Middle East crisis and the new administration's insistence on a role for Jordan. Is the U.S. Administration convinced of the Jordanian position of administrative and legal disengagement from the West Bank?

[Al-Qasim] Obviously everyone should have been aware of Jordan's position for years and not just since last year's disengagement. The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue began in the early eighties and continued until 1986. It was always important to the Palestinian brothers that we should not speak for the Palestinians, that they should talk about Palestinian rights while Jordan talks about Jordanian rights in the negotiating process at an international conference, if such a conference is held, in the presence of all the Arab parties concerned with the Middle East conflict, all the UN Security Council permanent members, and Israel. Going back to the June 1988 decision on administrative and legal disengagement from the West Bank, we believe that the Jordanian position was based on a Palestinian request and was supported by the Arabs. [passage omitted]

After the PLO's direct recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 and renunciation of terrorism, the U.S. Administration had no justification to refuse to hold a dialogue with the PLO and hold serious talks with it on the peace process. Israel, in the eyes of the world, became the only state distancing itself from the peace process for its own reasons, which it had concealed under the pretext of Arab rejection for many years, playing for time and the opportunity to entrench itself in the Arab world, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon. As the Arabs have reaffirmed the need for a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy, particularly the Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian question, Israel no longer has any excuse for continuing to pursue its ambitions in the Arab world and territory.

[AL-HAWADITH] To what extent are your views in agreement with the PLO views?

[Al-Qasim] The state of affairs we have had from the disengagement to this day has, in the context of our bilateral relations with the PLO, been one of the best for the nation. We believe that this healthy situation must contribute positively to the concept of Arab soldarity with a new atmosphere of trust, honesty, and complete frankness in the common interest. There is no longer anyone who suspects that Jordan has a rule that goes beyond or supersedes Palestinian ambitions and aspirations. The PLO represents these people and their rights. We will not oppose but will support whatever it decides in the interest of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you expect the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union to absorb the power of the Arab League and become a substitute for it or are they peripheries of the Arab League?

[Al-Qasim] We believe that all these three cases are healthy phenomena and they are peripheries to and a support for the Arab League, the mother organization. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Has the will of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni settled the situation in Iran or is there still a possibility of political divisions? Do you believe that there will be positive developments in Arab-Iranian relations in the future?

[Al-Qasim] What happened in Iran recently is a purely internal affair but it gives us in Jordan the opportunity to stress that as an Arab fraternal state to Iraq and as part of the Arab states, we reaffirmed our solidarity with sister Iraq at the Casabianca summit recently, in the pursuit of peace. We wish Iran would respond and we appeal to it to respond to this sincere Arab approach so that we can establish durable peace. [passage omitted]

PLO's Milhim on Jordanian-Palestinian Meetings

JN2706084089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jun 89 pp 20, 17

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Supporting the Steadfastness of the Kinfolk in the Occupied Homeland will hold a meeting today at the offices of the joint committee.

Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, head of the PLO Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, and member of the Palestinian delegation to the meetings, said the conferees will discuss the situation of the joint committee in light of the current circumstances, which require mobilizing all Arab and international organizations interested in supporting the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied homeland, headed by the joint committee, which has been in existence for over 10 years.

Milhim said the agenda topics include discussing support for the harmed [by the intifadah] sectors within the committee's modest resources, reviewing the committee's past activities, and benefiting from the committee's statistics on the occupied homeland to support the Palestinian Arab people's steadfastness and intifadah [uprising].

He said all efforts exerted by both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides as well as by the committee's general secretariat will be reviewed in order to convince the Arab states to pay due payments amounting to $560 million.

The PLO Executive Committee member affirmed that the committee will be briefed on the results of contacts held with the Arab states that did not pay their contributions. He said in light of these contacts, means to pursue these efforts will be specified.

Milhim said these arrears were promised by Arab Gulf states when the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee was established at the Baghdad 1978 Arab summit. It was then pledged that $1 billion would be paid to the committee's fund over 10 years. However, he said, only half this sum had been paid.

Milhim explained that the committee's fund had spent approximately $430 million paid by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Libya, Algeria, and the United Arab Emirates on projects to improve the lives of 1.7 million Palestinians suffering under the yoke of the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Milhim stressed the importance of this meeting, during which the entire situation in the occupied homeland and means of support will be discussed. He said that during the meeting, joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts will be concerted within the available Jordanian, Palestinian, and Arab resources to guarantee the continuation of support for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

He said that on the sidelines of this meeting, as usual, the two sides will review the Palestinian and Arab situation, especially in the occupied homeland within the context of continued Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

Meanwhile, Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian side to the meetings, arrived in Amman yesterday.

PLO's 'Abbas Arrives in Amman for Talks

JN2606182689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of ranking Jordanian officials.

He was received by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi.

King Addresses Police Academy

JN2606164889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] His majesty the king, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has said that Jordan, throughout its history, has succeeded in overcoming a number of challenges and perils. In a speech during a visit to the Royal Police Academy today, his majesty said Jordanians are able to shoulder their responsibilities for the benefit of our nation and future generations. His majesty stressed that each Jordanian enjoys the same rights as other citizens. His majesty noted that Public Security personnel carry out a great responsibility to maintain security and order in the country.

Earlier, the director general of the Public Security Department, General 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali made a speech thanking his majesty for the visit. Gen al-Majali said Jordanian policemen will continue to carry out their duties honestly and faithfully.

Birri Assails Al-Huss for Criticizing Militias

NC2606162489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has replied violently to former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss' statement in which he criticized the militias in West Beirut. Biri accused Al-Huss of aligning himself with General Michel 'Awn and political Maronism against the nationalists. He also charged that Al-Huss was aligning himself with the monopolists and rendering the Al-Sana'i grouping [Al-Huss cabinet] useless.

The Amal militia leader added: It was the militias that made Al-Huss prime minister, but he has aligned himself with 'Awn and political Maronism against the nationalists. He has stood up with the monopolists, benefiting from the kidnapping of Raji al-Bisat by certain persons.

Speaking at a news conference today, Birri accused Al-Huss of forming conclusions too hastily. He also referred with regret to the late Prime Minister Karami, saying that he was a real prime minister, while others only want to be told that they are prime minister. He accused Al-Huss of rendering the cabinet useless. Furthermore, Birri challenged Al-Huss to let Judge Munif 'Uwaydat undertake an investigation to assess his assets and those of Al-Huss.

Further on Birri's Comments

NC2606162889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Responding to remarks made by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri agreed with Al-Huss regarding the evils of militias. Speaking at a news conference this afternoon, he said: We must not forget that the political tradition and the believers in the present system are responsible for greater evils and even crimes. Had it not been for them, there would not have been a national need for a rebellion against the usurping legitimate authority.

'Awn on 'Understanding' With Neighboring States

NC2606154889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stressed that we want all our land to be for all our people, with undamaged integrity, and that we do not want any alien soldier on our territory.

In a speech marking the 5th anniversary of his becoming Army commander, Gen 'Awn said that the defense of identity, equality, and reform is the backbone of our thinking and existence. If there are regional or international interests which want to hide behind these ideas, we will expose them; we will not allow them to remain a coverup for the occupation, he added.

Gen 'Awn underlined the principles that are not open to discussion. These are sovereignty, independence, and Lebanon's territorial integrity. However, he added, understanding could be reached with fraternal and neighboring countries within the context of common interests, and a fraternal relationship could be established with anyone; but it is impossible to be a consolation prize, regardless of the difficulties, wars, and blockades. He added that, since his assumption of the command, he has counted on the homeland and its identity, and on soldiers who are not sectarian troops or the mercenaries of an international scheme, at a time when political talk was of solutions that do not concern the Lebanese homeland and identity. He stressed the cultural value which Lebanon has represented for 6,000 years, along with other civilizations, in its defense of freedom and human values.

Baker's Message to Al-Huss Reported

NC2506083889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has received a message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in which he affirmed U.S. commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. He called for the need by everyone to maintain maximum restraint to avert further tragedies following the cycles of violence during the past few weeks.

The U.S. secretary affirmed in his message that Lebanon's problems cannot be solved by military force but through dialogue among the Lebanese. This is the only way to ensure the restoration of national unity in Lebanon.

He called for the need to declare commitment not only to the principle of reforms but also to respect the rights of all the groups to security, peace, and freedom. Such a commitment could encourage the establishment of dialogue among the Lebanese. The U.S. secretary of state affirmed the important role the tripartite Arab Committee can play in facilitating such a dialogue. The committee can also assist in achieving national reconciliation by facilitating constitutional reforms and presidential elections.

He affirmed the need to support the Arab initiative, and called on all the parties to end all blockades in view of the hardships they cause the citizens and the danger of further violence. He also appealed for action to keep the country away from the effect of Arab conflicts.

He concluded by affirming that the U.S. Government will do all it can to help end Lebanon's ordeal; safeguard its sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity; bring about the withdrawal of foreign forces; and disband the militias, noting that only the Lebanese themselves can make basic decisions pertaining to the future of Lebanon.

Message to 'Awn

NC2606120889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has sent a message to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, reiterating Washington's commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and unity. The message pointed to the need for everyone to exercise a maximum degree of self-restraint to avert further tragedies. The message added that Lebanon's problems cannot be resolved by military force but through a dialogue among the Lebanese people. It also called for an end to the blockades and affirmed support for the Arab initiative.

Al-Huss has received a similar message.

Al-Huss Responds

NC2706115589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Within the framework of the messages and consultations concerning Lebanon, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today sent a reply to the message which he received from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker 2 days ago. Al-Huss' message gives his view on the situation in Lebanon, ways it can be dealt with, and the steps which must be taken to end the Lebanese crisis.

Hizballah Protest Saudi Limitation on Pilgrims

NC2506165289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Approximately 100 members of Hizballah demonstrated outside the house of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today to protest the limitation imposed by Saudi Arabia on the number of foreigners allowed to perform the pilgrimage next month.

The demonstrators chanted slogans denouncing King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. They handed Dr al-Huss a statement asking him to condemn the Saudi measure limiting the number of Lebanese pilgrims to 1,500.

Army Positions Under Syrian Sniper Fire

NC2706044989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Our correspondent reported this morning that Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and Dhar al-Wahsh have been under intermittent sniper fire accompanied by shelling from Syrian posts in 'Alayh, 'Aytat, and Shimlan since 0600 hours today. The Lebanese Army positions were still being subjected to Syrian fire at the time this bulletin was prepared.

Jubayl Coast Under Syrian Bombardment 27 Jun

NC2706080089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] The Jubayl coast came under Syrian bombardment from Syrian emplacements in al-Nahdah playground and Jal-al-Bahr in West Beirut between 0800 and 0930 hours today. Meanwhile, several shells fell on the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah.

Afghanistan

Text of Najibullah Speech to Armed Forces

LD2306231589 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
0600 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, 22 June (BAKHTAR)—Speech of Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, concerning the principles of military doctrine of the Republic of Afghanistan under the present circumstances delivered during the session of the leadership of the Armed Forces:

The government of the Republic of Afghanistan and its Armed Forces have entered a new and responsible stage of its evolution—the stage that is linked to the destiny of the homeland and our war-stricken people. At this stage, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan plays an important part. In general, the Armed forces are suitably accomplishing their national and patriotic duty vis-a-vis our people. The defenders of Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar, Zabol, and other provinces of the country who heroically defend the cities and provinces have gained eternal pride for themselves. [words indistinct]

As our peaceful proposals are not being accepted and aggression has been imposed on us, we have no alternative but to defend ourselves and continue the armed struggle, although we are fully aware to what extent the people of our country and the personnel of the Armed Forces are tired of this imposed war.

Since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, a new stage has begun in the life of our Armed Forces where our forces not only have to independently resist and confront the armed opposition groups but the direct aggression of Pakistan which is being supported by the United States, Saudi Arabia, and a number of other world countries. [passage indistinct]

Despite all the difficulties which face us, we can and we should be victorious. People will never gather around a scattered party and state and will not count on them. The experiences of recent years have proven the above fact. Possessing a military doctrine in the history of all the countries of the world has been one of the reasons that compresses Armed Forces together and gives them unity of thoughts, will, and action. At the present, too, the developed countries of the world are constantly making their military doctrine more accurate. The time has come for us to do the same. You know that the expression of "military doctrine" means a system of ideas officially accepted by a state about the nature of a war, the ways to carry it out, and the structure, training, and education of the Armed Forces. [passage indistinct]

The nature of the military doctrine of the Republic of Afghanistan could be described as a system of ideas officially accepted and directed towards the implementation of the national reconciliation policy the defense of the country, and nature of the military structure, and the training and education of the Armed Forces, as well as the ways to advance armed struggle to defend the country against armed opposition and warmongering forces and foreign aggression. A military doctrine has its political, military and (?technical) aspects.

About the political aspect of the military doctrine of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA]:

The main charters of the political aspect of our military doctrine were discussed in the Grand National Assembly held this year. Now I want once again to emphasize its most important element. First, the military doctrine of the RA, as the doctrine of peace loving country, has only a defensive character from the political standpoint. This means that our state rejects war as a means to resolve political, economic, and/or ideological differences. The experience of the past several years have shown that none of our differences could be solved by war. We follow a peace-aspiring policy. We will use our efforts patiently and persistently in order to peacefully resolve all conflicts and arguments. The RA has no plan of aggression or occupation towards any country.

As everyone knows, the extremists and their foreign patrons have embarked on hiring foreign subjects who are being transported to the territory of the RA within the structure of the armed opposition groups. They take direct part in combat operations. They encourage and even force the ringleaders of the groups to fire onto the cities and kill the civilians. Therefore, the RA reserved the right to turn to our international friends and to attract those who want to assist and cooperate with us voluntarily. As has been obvious, we have many international friends and they will certainly help us against direct foreign intervention.

However, we still favor equal-rights cooperation with all countries—and mainly with neighboring countries—based on serious respect for national sovereignty, and noninterference in the internal affairs of all other countries. Based on this principle, the Grand National Assembly has declared once again its support for the national reconciliation policy and approved a series of specific measures in connection with the practical implementation of this policy, which should be followed constantly and without deviation.

Therefore, we are against the continuation of war. We are trying with all our might to end the war as soon as possible and to prepare the ground in the land of Afghans for peace and cooperation for all Afghanistan's people and all classes of Afghan society in order to form a wide-ranging peace loving state.

Our policy enjoys the support of the majority of the people and a section of the opposition forces. There is no doubt that this support will increase in the future.

It is a very obvious fact that peace and national reconciliation is not only the duty of the state of the RA. As long as the irreconciliable oppositions and their foreign patrons continue their adventurous plans to overthrow the present regime by means of combat operations and the intimidation of those who support the state, we have no other option but to continue to defend our beloved country, our cities, villages, our homes, our families, and to defend all those noble Afghans who believe in us and cooperate with us in applying and implementing the national reconciliation policy.

The heroic and independent defense by our Armed Forces has only contributed to foil the urgent and direct danger which was directed towards our country's national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. [sentence indistinct]

For some time now certain circles in Pakistan have developed a secret and covert plan according to which, immediately after the armed opposition comes to power, a new strategic alliance or political consensus should be formed for Southwest Asia with the participation of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey. The main lines of this sinister plan by Pakistan were revealed in an article published in the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW dated 23 February 1989.

The magazine said that Pakistan, in order to implement its long-term plans, wants to creat a political and military alliance in Southwest Asia with the participation of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey.

About 2 years ago, during Ziaul Haq's rule, a high-ranking military official of Pakistan expressed his views openly on that subject. The FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW adds that Afghanistan now possibly doesn't want to join such an alliance. Therefore, Pakistan is trying to bring to power the Afghan mujahidin under the cover of an Islamic government after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, and open the way for the successful formation of such an alliance.

The daily AL-SHA'B, published in Beirut, has revealed in its issue dated 14 June 1989—almost a week ago—that it has obtained a copy of a secret document of the Pakistani intelligence agency concerning Pakistan's extensive and long-term plan to project its power and expansionist intentions in the region.

The main aims of this political alliance is to merge Afghanistan with Pakistan and thus resolve the border issue between our two countries in the interests of Pakistan and to bury forever the issue of the self-determination for Pashtuns and Baluchis and to win extensive territory in order to advance its hostile intention against India and the Soviet Union, to ensure Pakistan's leadership and ruling role over this collection, and to transform Pakistan into a great political, military, and economic power in the region and world. The facts shows that Pakistan is trying by its plan to revive the CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] military aggresive pact. The only difference is that this time it wants Afghanistan to be part of it. In the view of Pakistani planners, the previous CENTO pact was not so effective because Afghanistan, a country with an important strategic position in the region, was not a member of it. They know very well that Afghanistan, based on its traditional neutral stance adopted in accordance with the will of its people, did not want to be included in such military political adventures which do not accord with the interests of our people.

Pakistan wants to implement its military political plan in the region. To begin with, it wants to prepare Afghanistan to join this alliance by bringing the armed opposition to power. Therefore, it is obvious more than ever that the so-called crusade for the liberation of Afghanistan and an Islamic government of mujahidin is only a cover to reach this aim. This is because Pakistan is trying to overthrow the RA through military means by spending huge sums of money, sending enormous amounts of arms and military personnel, and imposing on the Afghan people a government fostered in Rawalpindi.

The flagrant assertion by a number of leaders of the seven-party alliance stationed in Pakistan is manifestation of the fact that they, too, agree with Palistan's plan. As Sibghatullah Mojaddedi said during an interview with the Pakistani news agency published in the (?FRONTIER) POST daily dated 19 March and the NATION daily dated 20 March, not only has he approved the military political alliance discussed by Pakistan but he also gave various reasons to defend it. Mojaddedi said in that interview that in his view there is a need to create such a multilateral alliance, for Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey all have joint political aims.

Also it is obvious to everyone that Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, head of the so-called Islamic Party, has defended several times the plan of the Pakistan leaders in connection with the merger of Afghanistan with Pakistan under the cover of a confederation. Therefore, it is very easy to see what type of collusion and dangerious antinational deals are being carried out by the leaders of the armed extremeist groups with certain circles in Pakistan: On the one hand, to bring themselves to power with the help of Pakistan; and on the other hand, to contribute to the expansionist plans of Pakistan and its international supporters in the region.

It is natural that the great danger which emanates from this sinister plan by Pakistan concerning the creation of a political military alliance in Southwest Asia will not only be directed toward Afghanistan but will also be a serious threat to peace, security, and stability in the region and all the Asian Continent.

Therefore, the heroism of you, the personnel of the Armed Forces, has not only defended the independence and sovereignty of a country but has prevented at the same time the implementation of Pakistan's sinister plan in the framework of such a dangerious alliance.

The political aspect of military doctrine also teaches that the defense of the country is not only the duty of the Armed Forces but also the duty of all parties, people, and citizens of a country. Therefore, taking into account the current situation of the country, extraordinary measures are necessary in order to mobilize all the existing economic and financial resources of the country to fulfill the duties of defending the homeland. It is necessary for the great financial assistance rendered to us by the Soviet Union to be used more accurately and [word indistinct]. At the same the existing internal resources of the country should be used more fully. The governors and the commanders of the garrisons should contribute comprehensively to the development of construction work, the revival of the mosques, schools, and hospitals, and to the expansion of trade and acceleration of transportation development, the supply and provision of foodstuffs and goods to the people, and other matters.

Although the other aspects of the policy of the RA and the political aspects of military doctrine were assessed in the Grand Assembly, and there is no need to discuss it in detail at this session, nevertheless, I consider it necessary to draw your attention once again to the importance and the value of the political aspects of military doctrine, which is an important factor and element for military victory. The basic and main principle of the policy of the RA and of the political aspects of our military doctrine is the national reconciliation policy. National reconciliation is not a temporary matter or only an instrument to end the war, it is a multidimensional policy which covers ending the war, gathering in the broad participation of the forces in the running of the state and society, the development and consolidation of the coalition administration with broad bases, the expansion of political pluralism, ensuring the socio-economic development of the country, protecting the territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan, following an active neutral foreign policy, elaborating and pursuing economic and social policies based on the objective realities of society, and strengthening of the defensive forces of the country.

You are aware of the new initiative by the RA which was discussed in detail at the historical Grand Assembly held in April. All these proposals and also the plans which will be presented in future in order to end war and ensure peace were based and will be based on the national reconciliation policy. Finally, the national reconciliation policy counts as a powerful factor for military victories.

Another important political aspect of the military doctrine is the further attraction of the armed opposition forces, commanders inside the country, those groups who are weary of war, and those sections of the opposition forces who are undecided and are in a state of vacillation.

The Armed Forces of the RA do not only have a defensive duty. [words indistinct] The RA [word indistinct] its continuation in decisive struggle against the armed opposition and aggression and interference from abroad.

After the withdrawal of the Soviet troops the first tests to show the strength of the forces in the interest of the state power [word indistinct]. People gradually understand the national character of the regime. [passage indistinct]

We should use all our efforts from the political and military standpoints to force the enemy to submit to the national reconciliation policy—the national reconciliation policy which has many gains, needs dynamism and new steps.

We will speak in future at other sessions with party and state officials in connection with the new aspects of the national reconciliation policy and the political aspects of the military doctrine. We intend to assess new directions and elements for further deepening of the national reconciliation policy.

Notes 619-621 Sent to UNGOMAP on Violations

BK2706100689 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] The flagrant violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords by Pakistan were once again brought to the notice of the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] through notes 619 to 621 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In these notes, 20 instances of open violations of the provisions of Geneva accords by the Pakistani military authorities have been brought to the attention of the UN mission with precise and documented data and the UN mission has been asked to convey the result of its investigation to the sides concerned in accordance with Paragraph 7 of the fourth document of the Geneva accords.

Civilian, Military Casualty Figures Reported

BK2606151089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 26 (AFP)—The Soviet-backed Afghan Government said here Monday that 1,748 of its soldiers had been killed and another 3,483 injured in the first six months of this year in fighting with the mujahidin.

The figures, from January 20 to June 21, show that most of casualties occurred since the Soviet troop withdrawal February 15.

Fighting escalated sharply throughout the country after the Soviet pullout, when the mujahidin rebels launched a protracted offensive to take the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad.

Government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said that of the Army casualties, 279 had died in defence of Jalalabad while 921 had been injured fighting for the city.

Three of those who died were generals, he said.

Mr. Amani put civilian deaths countrywide in the six month period at 1,577, of which 622 were listed as killed in Jalalabad. Of the 3,342 wounded nationwide, 1,149 were in Jalalabad.

There was no independent confirmation of the casualty figures, which also showed that 337,018 heavy weapon rounds had been fired at cities and military positions in the six month-period. Jalalabad accounted for 136,140.

No figures were given for the number of bombing raids launched by the government or the number of Soviet-made Scud missiles fired during the period.

The spokesman estimated that 12,000 mujahidin rebels had been killed in the almost four-month-long offensive for Jalalabad, a figure which observers here said seemed "high".

Further on Congratulations to PRC's Jiang Zemin

BK2706101289 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] On behalf of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], a congratulatory message has been communicated to His Excellency Jiang Zemin on his election as the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China [CPC].

In this message, further success of His Excellency has been wished in the accomplishment of his duties and the progress of the great people of the People's Republic of China.

The message expressed the desire of the PDPA to get its relations strengthened with the CPC in the interest of good-neighborliness, understanding and cooperation as well as friendship between the peoples of the two countries in maintaining peace and security in the region.

Rebel Attacks on Jalalabad Detailed

LD2706062689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 26, BAKHTAR—The extremists supported by the 11th Pakistani Corps attacked Jalalabad City and its security posts during the past 24 hours, an authorised military source said.

Three servicemen and a civilian were wounded. Units of the Armed Forces retaliated. Fifty-two extremists were killed and 64 others wounded. A number of Pakistani soldiers and Saudi Arabia mercenaries are among those killed or wounded.

Large quantity of arms and ammunition of the enemy destroyed.

Attacks of the extremists gangs on Paktia Province resulted in killing 4 civilians and wounding two members of the Armed Forces, a number of residential quarters were demolished.

As a result of the extremists attack a woman and a serviceman were killed and 3 civilians wounded in Herat Province.

Security forces uncovered tens of rockets ready for launching on Kabul City here on Sunday.

Clashes are being intensified among extremist gangs. Thirteen extremists were killed and ten others wounded as a result of the clashes occurred among the Gulbuddin and his rival groups in the Galeh Chah district, Farah Province on Sunday.

Further on Fighting

LD2706063389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 26 BAKHTAR—The armed opposition groups backed by the 11th Corps of Pakistan fired yesterday rockets on residential areas in the vicinity of Jalalabad Airport as a result of which one personnel of the Armed Forces wounded, reports our military correspondent from the city that the Armed Forces based in Nangarhar Province resorted to counterattacks killing 49 extremists and wounding 52 others. Four ringleaders, twelve Pakistani militarists and seven Saudi Arabian Wahabbies were among those killed. A large amount of arms and munitions of the enemy were demolished.

According to another report, extremists launched yesterday rockets on the residential areas of Khowst grand district and Herat Province wounding four personnel of the Armed Forces.

A number of the persons attached to the enemy were killed and wounded during the combat operations carried out by the Armed Forces in Khowst and Herat.

Likewise five extremists were killed and their weapons damaged as a result of the counterattacks of the Armed Forces in Qandahar Province.

In line with the historic statement of President Najibullah, addressed to the field opposition commanders inside the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and message of the Loya Jergah (Grand Assembly) two extremist armed groups numbering over 40 persons joined the process of national reconciliation in Qandahar and Herat Provinces recently.

Since the announcement of the national reconciliation policy about 500 refugees have been transported from the alien lands by the Ariana Afghan Airlines (AAA) to Kabul and over 6,000 from Kabul to provinces of the country.

A source of the AAA told to a BAKHTAR reporter that the transportation process of refugees by that airlines from abroad is going on.

Bangladesh

Hill Tracts 'Sealed' Before District Elections

BK2406090689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0200 GMT 24 Jun 89

[By Nural Alam]

[Text] Khagrachari, Bangladesh, June 24 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities, fearing tribal violence, have banned election campaigning and tightened security ahead of Sunday's [25 June] crucial polls in the eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The Election Commission (EC) slapped a ban on all campaigning for 48 hours from midnight Friday [23 June] and warned that violators would be punished.

Officials here said all possible measures had been taken to ensure peaceful elections and additional troops had been deployed in the rugged region to thwart any attempts to disrupt the polls by Chakma tribal insurgents called the Shanti Bahini, or "Peace Force."

Military sources said at least 20,000 troops have so far been deployed in the scenic tracts, torn by violence since 1974 when Bengali Muslims started settling here with government backing.

They added that the tracts, bordering India and Burma, had been "sealed."

But informed sources said they feared rebel attacks on election day, which could force willing tribespeople to stay away from the polls.

Some 600,000 people are eligible to vote Sunday in the first ever local government council elections for the three hill districts of Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachari.

Candidates went door-to-door campaigning Friday to mobilise last minute support before the midnight ban went into effect. Election posters and buntings have been put up across this district town.

A total of 257 people have filed nominations for the 31 seats at stake in the council, which is to have a tribal chairman and an elected body of Moslems and tribespeople.

Tribal leaders Samiran Kumar Dewan and Gautam Dewan have been elected unopposed as chairmen of Khagrachari and Rangamati Districts, the EC said.

But the 6,000-strong Shanti Bahini has rejected the polls and local officials feared the group might launch an offensive to foil the elections called by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad in April to establish "a durable peace in the region and enhance his government's prestige.

The Chakma rebels also rejected an amnesty offered by Mr. Ershad and vowed to continue their campaign for autonomy and withdrawal of Muslim Bengali settlers from the 13,000-square-kilometer (5,200-square-mile) region.

A military commander said that "trouble in the region would continue with renewed violence despite the elections." He did not elaborate.

In its renewed activities the Shanti Bahini killed at least 50 tribesmen and security personnel during the past two months, officials said.

Police Friday said the rebels ambushed an army patrol on Maininimul Lake Wednesday in Bandarban District killing three soldiers, and also clashed with security personnel in the district's Panchari county.

More than 2,000 people were killed and many more have been injured or abducted by the rebels during the last 15 years of the jungle war, according to unofficial estimates.

Bangladesh authorities and Shanti Bahini have held six rounds of unsuccessful talks in recent years in a bid to resolve the conflict. Officials have blamed their failure on unreasonable demands by the rebels.

In May, Chakma students and monks demonstrated in Dhaka to condemn what they called "barbarous atrocities" against their people and said the elections would mean little since some 50,000 tribespeople had fled to the neighboring Indian state of Tripura.

The Bangladesh Government earlier this month said there were 29,920 tribespeople in Tripura refugee camps, and denied that there had been a fresh exodus, as had been claimed by prominent tribal leaders in the Indian press.

Security officials here said at least 300 tribespeople recently forced to leave their homes by the rebels had taken shelter in a school in Panchari county, instead of crossing into India.

Elections Held 'Peacefully'

BK2606085789 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Polling in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachari was held peacefully today with enthusiasm and spontaneous participation of the voters. The voting, which started at 0800 in the morning, passed off peacefully without any untoward incident.

Our Chittagong representative says polling in some centers continued beyond 1700. In some centers, candidates, both tribal and nontribal, used trucks and scooters to bring voters from different areas.

A member of the National Committee for Chittagong Hill Tracts, Major General Abdus Salam, who visited some centers, described the polling as a tremendous success. He said the holding of the successful election in the hill tracts would raise the morale of the people of the area.

According to reports, counting of votes began immediately after the end of polling. In the three district councils, there are in all 93 seats with three posts of chairmen, exclusively reserved for tribals. As already reported, two chairmen have been elected unopposed. Mr Samiran Kumar Dewan has been elected chairman from Khagrachari and Mr Gautam Dewan as chairman from Rangamati.

Further on Elections

BK2606084989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1554 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Rangamati, Bangladesh, June 25 (AFP)—Voting in Bangladesh's insurgency-hit Chittagong Hill Tracts ended Sunday amid sporadic shooting incidents and fears of rebel attacks, security sources said.

The outlawed Shanti Bahini or Peace Force Chakma rebels continued their fear tactics by firing blanks from forests in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandraban, but failed to disrupt the elections, they said.

Election officials said in some centres voting could continue past the 5:00 P.M. (1100 GMT) deadline because of the complicated ballot papers.

A group of journalists visiting the area saw hundreds of tribal and non-tribal people lining up at the heavily guarded polling centres here long before voting started at 8:00 A.M.(0200 GMT). Despite the rebel threat of reprisals, brisk polling was seen in the three centres the journalists visited.

An estimated 546,000 voters, nearly 40 percent of them non-tribal Muslim Bengalis, form the electorate for the three upgraded hill district councils devolved with semi-autonomy under a recent parliamentary bill passed by the government of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to restore peace and stability in the hill region bordering India and Burma.

Election officials said an estimated 60 percent of the voters, excercising their right of franchise for the first time ever, have cast their votes in the three districts.

Mr Ershad visited the districts to witness polling, officials said.

Security thorughout the area had been tightened Friday with an additional 12,000 Army troops deployed throughout the rugged hills to ensure a peaceful election and the safety of the voters.

The Shanti Bahini are fighting a 15-year-old bush war demanding tribal autonomy and the expulsion of Bengali-speaking Muslim settlers from the plains under a previous government settlement programme.

The rebels, allegedly operating from across the border where thousands of tribal refugees from Bangladesh had taken shelter since the eruption of tribal insurgency a few years ago, are opposed to the elections which they reportedly termed as "farcical."

Since the poll schedule under the new laws was announced, at least 16 people were killed and more than 550 injured in rebel attacks on both tribal and non-tribal villagers mostly along the border areas.

Polling in Bandarban and Khagrachari Districts was held peacefully, but the sounds of gun shots and bomb blasts could be heard from areas far from the district towns.

Security sources said Shanti Bahini rebels failing to stop the elections were resorting to the fear tactics.

Officials said since January 1980, the insurgency in the 13,000-square-kilometers (5,200-square-miles) of scenic region by the Shanti Bahini had left more than 919 people dead and more than 500 others, including some foreign nationals, missing.

More than 2,000 people were killed and many more have been injured or abducted by the rebels during the last 15 years, according to unofficial estimates.

Of the three district councils being voted in, posts of the two powerful chairmen in Rangamati and Khagrachari had already been declared elected unopposed, while one of the two candidates running for the chairmanship of Bandarban withdrew from the race Sunday, election officials said.

The posts, exclusively reserved for tribals, carry an upgraded status of deputy minister in the government.

In Rangamati, Gautam Dewan, a 35-year-old Chakma tribeman who was elected unopposed, said Sunday's election was a "challenge" for the people of the region.

"The question is whether we want peace, stability and development, or to succumb to aimless and bloody pressure from misguided rebels."

'Arafat Visits Dhaka En Route to Pyongyang

BK2606090389 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] The president of the Palestine State, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, has arrived in Pyongyang on an official visit to North Korea at the invitation of President Kim Il-song. They will discuss matters of mutual interest and the latest developments in the Middle East.

Earlier, on the way to North Korea, the PLO chairman last night made an hour-long stopover in Dhaka. He had talks with Vice President Nurual Islam, Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed and Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

Chittagong Dockworkers Strike Over Unpaid Bonuses

BK2606090489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, June 25 (AFP)—Some 30,000 dockworkers launched an indefinite strike here Sunday to demand outstanding bonuses promised by the authorities, port officials said.

Port officials said that all activities in the southern port had come to a standstill because of the strike by longshoremen, which is technically illegal because their services have been declared "essential" by the government.

The Chittagong Port Authority said the demands for back bonuses were being considered by the Finance Ministry.

The union representing dockworkers in the country's largest port said they would continue to stay away from work until their demands for bonuses for 1987 and 1988 were approved by the authorities.

Grain handling would be carried out by a skeletal staff, the union said.

The dockworkers had walked off the job for two hours on Friday and four hours on Saturday, officials said.

Rivers 'Devour' 500 Square Kilometers of Land

BK2506081389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Dhaka, June 25 (AFP)—At least 500 square kilometers (200 square miles) of land have been devoured by three major rivers in 300 areas across Bangladesh during the past month, experts said here Sunday.

The Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna, along with 230 other rivers which criss-cross Bangladesh, are expected to devour another 2,500 square kilometers (1,000-square-miles) of land this year, the pro-government DAINIK BANGLA paper quoted river experts here as saying.

Erosion of the River Jamuna, a Brahmaputra tributary, Saturday devoured at least 500 houses, rendering at least 2,500 people homeless in Daulatpur sub-district of central Manikganj District, 48 kilometers (30 miles) from here, press reports said.

The Jamuna also washed away 80 hectres (200 acres) of land affecting another 1,000 people of Daulatpur during the last 24 hours, the reports said.

Erosion by the Jamuna and Padma, an off-shoot of the Meghna, is continuing in and around the capital Dhaka, reports said quoting official sources.

The lowlying areas of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Tangail and Mymensingh Districts have already been hit by flash floods and canals in Dhaka have also swollen since the second week of June.

Heavy rainfall during the past month coupled with an inflow of water from across the border have resulted in a sudden rise in the water level of most of the major rivers of the country, Bangladesh Water Development Board officials said here.

They said the normal flow of rivers has been impeded by accumulation of sediment during the unprecedented floods of 1987 and 1988.

Of the total 4.2 billion tons annual erosion of sediment from the Himalayas, 2.1 billion tons flow into the lower regions of Bangladesh, according to several Indian studies.

Twenty to sixty percent of Bangladesh's total area is regularly inundated by water running off the Himalayas.

The 1988 flood killed 2,200 people, made another three million homeless and destroyed properties and crops worth millions of dollars.

Health Minister—Bangladesh Still AIDS-Free

BK2506144789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Dhaka, June 25 (AFP)—The deputy prime minister of Bangladesh, Professor M.A. Matin, said on Sunday that his country was still free from AIDS and that foreigners were not screened because the tests were time-consuming.

Blood samples from over 10,000 suspected people have been screened so far and no one was found either afflicted with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or carrying its virus, Mr. Matin told parliament.

Mr. Matin, who also heads the Health Ministry, said there was no system to check incoming travellers as AIDS-screening tests were time-comsuming and difficult to ascertain immediately as the disease developed gradually.

He said that the Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO) "also did not approve any restriction on incoming and outgoing foreign travellers," adding that Dhaka would soon publish guide for Bangladeshis going abroad.

Bangladesh formed a 10-member national committee for AIDS of leading doctors and health experts in 1986 to study the disease and to help create national awareness of it.

Officials said prostitutes, prisoners and professional blood donors constitute the bulk of the 10,000 people so far screened for AIDS.

Predominantly Muslim Bangladesh has no openly homosexual groups.

India

Security Tightened in Assam Against Strike

BK2606035089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] In Assam, the state government has tightened security measures in Kokrajhar District and Udalguri subdivision as well as in some tribal areas of the state in view of the 340-hour statewide bundh [strike] called by a faction of the All Bodo Students Union [ABSU] from this morning. The bundh has been called demanding talks with the center to find a solution to the Bodo problem.

Official sources at Guwahati said arrangements have been made to guard roads, bridges, and vulnerable areas. The Northeast Frontier Railway has decided to run the passenger train between Guwahati and Sriramapur during the daytime of the bundh period.

Meanwhile, the state government has agreed to participate in the proposed tripartite talks with the representatives of the ABSU, Upendra Brahma group, if such discussions are held at Guwahati and no demand for further division of Assam was made.

Latest official reports said that suspected Bodo miscreants set fire to a bus and a truck in Gohpur in (Sonitpur) District yesterday. According to police, five persons were seriously injured as miscreants opened fire in the bus.

Explosion Kills 3 Policemen

BK2706075889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 jun 89

[Text] In Assam, three policemen were killed and seven others injured, some of them seriously, when a bomb planted by the Bodo extremists exploded at (Runikhata) in Kokrajhar District today. PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], quoting official sources in Guwahati, reports that the remote controlled high intensity bomb exploded when the policemen were courting a fleet of vehicles to Bhutan. In another Bodo incident suspected Bodo miscreants last night exploded a bomb on the railway track at Barpeta rail station of Northeast Frontier Railway. The track was slightly damaged.

Meanwhile, the 340-hour bundh [strike] called by a faction of the All Bodo Students Union since yesterday morning continues to paralyze normal life in Kokrajhar District and Udalguri Subdivision.

Gang Responsible for Moga Killings Identified

BK2606162289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has said that the terrorist gang responsible for the killing of 24 persons in Moga yesterday has been identified. Our Ferozepore correspondent reports that the governor disclosed this at the meeting of district grievances and development committee in Moga today. Later, talking to newsmen, he declined to reveal the identity of the gang and said that the police have been asked to arrest the terrorists within a week. Mr Ray also said that the families of the victims of the terrorist killing will be given all help for rehabilitation. He said that the children of the victims will be given seats on a priority basis for admission to various professional courses.

Earlier, the Punjab governor, accompanied by Mr J.F. Ribeiro—adviser—and other senior police and civil officials, visited the houses of the victims and offered condolences.

Killings Protested

BK2606124889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] The Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party held a demonstration in New Delhi today near the residence of the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in protest against the killings by terrorists in Moga. Police sources said a number of demonstrators courted arrested, who were later released. The demonstrators broke the police cordon and tried to set fire to a public bus and damage the vehicle. Five policemen were injured, one of them seriously.

People Urged To Ignore Agitation Against Media

BK2506130789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr K.K.Tiwari, has appealed to the people to ignore the agitation by the Janata Dal [opposition party] against the electronic media as this is unwarranted and uncalled for. He said they should instead evaluate actions of the opposition parties at this crucial juncture.

Speaking in Patna today, Mr Tiwari said All India Radio [AIR] and Doordarshan [Television] are giving as much coverage to the opposition parties as to ruling Congress-I. He said projection of the prime minister and of the government's policies should not be confused with party coverage. The minister said if the print media cannot ignore news relating to the prime minister, why should AIR and Doordarshan do so? He said the electronic media gives due coverage to the chief ministers and state functions of opposition-ruled states. Mr Tiwari said the electronic media are accountable to parliament, to the people, and also to the press (?at large). He reminded the people about the manifesto of the Janata Party in 1977 in which they had promised so-called autonomy, but even a functional autonomy was denied during the rule.

External Affairs Minister Criticizes Sri Lanka

BK2606153089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1513 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, June 26 (AFP)—India has condemned attempts by Sri Lanka to take a dispute over the presence of Indian Peace Keeping troops on the island to a South Asian cooperation group due to meet next month in Islamabad.

"We refuse to accept such blatant violations of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Charter," an External Affairs Ministry spokesman told reporters here Monday.

"This is the third time that this particular country has attempted to raise bilateral issues on the eve of SAARC meetings," he added, without giving details.

The spokesman's comments followed Colombo's decision to boycott a SAARC foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad next month in protest of India's refusal to withdraw its 45,000-strong Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northeast.

"The objectives of SAARC would not be achieved unless its member states agree not to interfere in the affairs of other members and take undue advantage of their size and prominence," Sri Lanka's foreign minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, said in a message to his Pakistani counterpart, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

"In this context, we have come to the conclusion that participation in this conference will not serve any useful purpose," Mr. Wijeratne said, referring to the dispute over the IPKF.

The SAARC, founded in 1985, includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Indian spokesman said the Sri Lankan move was against "the letter and spirit of the SAARC Charter," which stipulated that contentious bilateral issues should be kept out of SAARC deliberations. [passage omitted]

The Indian spokesman described as "fanciful" a report in a Calcutta newspaper that New Delhi had planned an elaborate commando operation to rescue diplomats and their families in the event that Sinhalese rebels attempted a siege of the Indian High Commission (embassy) in Colombo.

The spokesman said that responsibility for providing "adequate security" to foreign nationals and to diplomatic missions was that of the host country.

THE TELEGRAPH newspaper said Sunday that India had warned the Sri Lankan Government that it would not hesistate to launch a rescue mission if the need arose.

The action would be implemented only as a "last resort" in case Colombo allowed the Janatha Vimukth Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), a Sinhalese militant group, to "harm or imprison" Indians, the paper said.

The daily said that intelligence reports had warned that the JVP, which opposes the Indian presence, was planning to surround the Indian High Commission and hold its staff hostage, as Iranian militants did with U.S. diplomats in Teheran in 1979.

Further on Criticism

BK2606161389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that any attempt to introduce bilateral issues in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] meetings by member countries is against the letter and spirit of the SAARC Charter. Article 10 of the SAARC Charter says that general decisions at all levels shall be taken on the basis of unanimity and bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations.

The spokesman made these remarks when his attention was drawn by newsmen to the reported attempt of Sri Lanka to raise the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force issue in the forthcoming foreign ministers' meeting of SAARC to be held Pakistan next week. He said the government has seen reports that Sri Lanka has sought to raise bilateral matters in a SAARC forum. We understand that they have also written to Pakistan, the current chairman in this connection. This is the third time that Sri Lanka is trying to raise bilateral issues on the eve of the SAARC meeting. India refuses to accept such a blatant violation of the SAARC Charter. While answering queries, the spokesman pointed out that Sri Lanka held a similar threat before the SAARC meeting in Thimpu in May 1985 and also in New Delhi in June 1987.

The All India Radio correspondent reporting from Islamabad says the meeting of the programming committee of senior officials of the SAARC countries could not start today because of the absence of the Sri Lankan delegation.

Foreign Secretary To Visit Islamabad, Beijing

BK2706032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, will be leading a 4-member Indian delegation to the first meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group scheduled to be held in Beijing from the 30th of this month. The talks are likely to be held for 4 days. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the foreign secretary will be leaving for Islamabad today to attend the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign secretaries meeting. The foreign secretary will then leave Islamabad for Beijing to attend the Joint Working Group meeting. The decision to set up the group was taken during the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's, visit to China last December. The group will discuss among other things the boundary issue between the two countries.

Iran

Velayati Interviewed on Iranian-Arab Ties

JN2506155389 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 22 Jun 89 p 17

[Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati—"First comprehensive interview after the death of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni"—by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Zubaydi; date, place not given]

[Text] [Al-Zubaydi] How do you view future relations between Iran and the Arab countries?

[Velayati] We hope that we will establish sound relations with the Arab countries based on friendship, mutual respect, and Islamic brotherhood. We hope that these relations will be enhanced day after day.

Our current relations with a number of Arab countries are good. Our relations with Syria rank extremely high. Our relations with Libya, Algeria, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen are good.

Our relations with the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain are also good. Our ties with Kuwait are improving. Our ties with Sudan are good and with Somalia relatively good.

Generally speaking, we believe that due to the various common bonds between Iran and the Arabs, foremost of which is the bond of Islam, it is possible for both sides to be linked with sound, rational, and cordial ties. This is a general principle.

[Al-Zubaydi] Are efforts being exerted to resume the broken relations between Iran and some Arab countries?

[Velayati] There are basic problems between us and some of these countries. Consider Egypt, for example. Our basic problem with Egypt is that it accepted the Camp David agreement. Indeed, Egypt opened the way for regrettable relations between some Arab countries and Israel. Resumption of relations with some other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, is conditional on both countries' ability to resolve their old problems, especially the question of pilgrimage.

Therefore, we say yes to some countries and no to some others.

[Al-Zubaydi] What role will Iran play in the Islamic world? What will be its position toward the liberation movements?

[Velayati] Iran considers that all Muslims constitute one nation. Therefore, it will seek to promote and enhance its relations with the Islamic countries.

We stress the fact that Muslims can never have might without return to the Islamic values. In a Muslim country, one cannot be Muslim while adopting anti-Islamic values.

Regarding our relations with the Islamic liberation movements, we support Islamic movements in principle. We fully support some of the Islamic movements. The best examples are the Islamic liberation movement in Afghanistan and the Islamic movement in Palestine.

[Al-Zubaydi] What are the new horizons of Iran's new foreign policy and its attempts to end its political isolation?

[Velayati] We will follow the policy drawn up by Imam Khomeyni. If termination of so-called political isolation harms our principles and independence, we prefer to remain in that political isolation. However, we are trying to maintain relation with other countries within the framework of Islamic principles and national independence.

[Al-Zubaydi] Is it true that recent months have witnessed mediations between Tehran and Washington?

[Velayati] Several countries offered such mediation. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran did not welcome these offers.

[Al-Zubaydi] Can you name these countries?

[Velayati] It is not necessary to mention them now. However, such offers were made.

[Al-Zubaydi] Does this sudden and close cooperation with the Soviet Union in particular and the socialist camp in general mean that Iran wants to exercise pressure on the West?

[Velayati] We are the Soviet Union's neighbor and we want to expand our relations with it. Exercising pressure on another side is not a temporary issue, because every political move has repercussions. You may mean that the main political move has no peripheral moves. However, the important move, which we call a strategic move, will certainly affect the world.

Our desire to expand friendly relations and good-neighborliness is not aimed at frightening other sides, but it is a strategic goal based on the principle of neither East nor West. In other words, we will not bow to any pressures from the East or the West. We are organizing our moves in light of our interests and within the framework of the Islamic and national interests.

[Al-Zubaydi] We have heard that there is also cooperation with the Soviet Union in the atomic energy area. What are Iran's goals in this regard?

[Velayati] We, too, have heard such a report. We did not talk to the Soviets on this issue. We do not intend to do that. However, there are many rumors.

[Al-Zubaydi] Reports say that Iran wants to establish a free zone or free port in Jah Bahar [placename as published]. What is the aim, and how will this free zone affect Iran's economy?

[Velayati] The principle of establishing free zones that enjoy a sort of freedom in trade exchange is acceptable to us. We also selected the island of Kish. We can call it a zone of free economy. However, we are still hesitant. However, we can say that a large-scale trade exchange will take place there. It is certain that the island of Kish will be a free zone.

[Al-Zubaydi] Will you be a vice president if Hashemi-Rafsanjani becomes president?

[Velayati] This is the first time I have heard such talk. There is nothing of the sort between me and Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

[Al-Zubaydi] During my current visit to Iran I was struck by an upbeat popular mood over Rafsanajani assuming the presidency and Khamene'i the [spiritual] leadership. The Iranians I have met read in this a departure of the radicals from the scene. Do you agree?

[Velayati] It is possible that you will not find the kind of classification you would elsewhere around the world, where there are radicals and moderates. However, certainly individuals here have differing outlooks. This is natural and to be expected. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has never been cut off from the political arena or the ruling hierarchy. He has been within the circle of the decision-makers in Iran and under the direct guidance of Iman Khomeyni. His capacities as parliament speaker and commander in chief of the Armed Forces are not to be underestimated. It is inconceivable that in 2 months he will be outside the circle of power. It must be said that right from the beginning of the revolution Rafsanjani has been an influential figure. He has had an effective part to play and, God willing, will continue in directing affairs of the state.

[Al-Zubaydi] What is the state of your relations with the State of Palestine?

[Velayati] The PLO maintains an embassy and ambassador in Tehran. While we may not subscribe to all the ways of the PLO, we firmly support the Palestinian cause. Neither are we opposed to liberating part of the Palestinian territory down the road to total liberation of the Palestinian soil. Fundamentally, though, we stand for a complete liberation of Palestine. The Arabs and Muslims have all along the line sought as much. However, over the years, some have backtracked; some Arabs and Muslims have even settled for Palestinian autonomy or a Palestinian state in a truncated part of Palestine under Israeli sovereignty. We are opposed to any settlement that brings disgrace to the Palestinians. This is our bone of contention with certain PLO figures.

[Al-Zubaydi] What is the point of maintaining Iranian forces in Lebanon, and what are the future plans for them?

[Velayati] The limited number of these forces are there under an agreement worked out between Syria and Iran during the Israeli invasion. Their task was to assist the Syrian forces and Lebanese strugglers in warding off an Israeli attack on Lebanon and the militant Lebanese people as well as the Palestinians and Syrians. Their role at present is one of instruction and advice, and they do not engage in hostilities.

[Al-Zubaydi] Under the new leadership, will the issue of exporting the revolution remain standing?

[Velayati] The exportation of revolution is not something that can be prevented. Here I do not mean the exportation of revolution through the use of arms, but the exportation of revolution is a cultural and ideological matter. No revolution is limited within its borders; in one way or another, it will affect other regions in the world, especially since our revolution is an Islamic one and Islam is a comprehensive universal ideological principle. So, how can a serious ideological change occur for the Muslims of Iran without affecting Muslims in other parts of the world? The ideological movements that emerged throughout history in different parts of the Muslim world—and that were not that strong or firm—affected other Islamic, and even non-Islamic, regions. So, how can a great movement for the revival of human values, such as that in Iran, emerge without affecting

other parts of the world? Hence, the exportation of revolution—that is, the transfer of revolutionary values and concepts to other parts of the world—is inevitable. However, this does not mean that we aim to interfere in the affairs of others or that we want to export the revolution through the use of arms. We vehemently denounce such a thing. The exportation of revolution is a noble ideological, intellectual, and cultural matter.

[Al-Zubaydi] What does the Islamic Republic of Iran expect from the Arab world in the current phase?

[Velayati] We believe that if the Arab states view things from the angle of their interests, they will undoubtedly reach the conclusion that there must be a sound bond between them and Iran. This is because Iran is a large country in terms of population and has a glorious civilized past. It also played a great role in the history of Islamic civilization and is a genuine part of Islam and the Muslim world. If the Arab world were to its side, it would constitute with it a great buttress for confronting all dangers posed to the Arab and Muslim world. If we want to restore to the Arabs and Muslims their past glory and greatness, then all forces of the Muslim world must support each other.

When this happens, no one can overlook the power of Islamic Iran. Therefore, if the Arab world believes that—and we, as I said, have good relations with some Arab states and have problems with others—the existence of sound brotherly and friendly ties with Iran will serve the Arab world's interests, and if it also reconsiders its policies, then the future of ties between Iran and the Arab world will undoubtedly be much better, and this will be for the benefit of both sides.

Musavi-Ardabili's Friday Prayers First Sermon

LD2306210889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1435 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Friday prayers first sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran on 23 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We should be grateful to almighty God. This Islamic ummah must have been very dear to God to have been included in His grace. A calamitous day arrived but, thanks to God's mercy, the Islamic ummah was excluded from the general destiny. The friends were shaken with fright, while the foes were extremly hopeful of the consequences of such a day. But it arrived and passed. Eyes were filled with tears, hearts were broken, the world went black. The leader had passed away, but thanks be to God, what was the hope of the foes and the fear of the friends did not occur.

Not only were our revolution, country, land, system, organizations, Armed Forces, policy, and situation not thrown into disarray, on the contrary they continue to exist with the same force and in the same harmony. There were two forces responsible for this: The first force was the popular force. The enemies who lay in ambush thought that now that the leader has died, the force has left, the people have dispersed, and the officials have been left on their own, hence weakened, and the time was ripe for attack. However, as a result of awareness, alacrity, selflessness, devotion, faith, and the will of the people, all the enemies' hopes were shattered. They had stated that the people are not content; that they had been constrained by force, and it was the shadow of the imam which has constrained them. Otherwise, the economy, the war, discontent, disorder, and such, would induce people to get hold of the officials and tear them to pieces, the moment the imam's eyes closed forever.

Such were their hopes. But they saw a 10 million-strong mourning ceremony. They saw the events which I shall not relate, since you all saw and heard, since you were present. Such is our nation, our people, and our population, who delivered such a heavy blow to the enemies' mouths—which were in the habit of exaggerating—that they became so shocked throughout the world, and it will take them some time to recover. [passage omitted]

The second force was the officials. By officials I mean the experts, all those who hover around the candle of the revolution. This is extremely important. They assumed that the people would leave, and the officials would become involved in a power struggle. But they saw that the people did not leave, but united, and that the officials did not even for a minute—it may be unprecedented in the world—cross each others' path. They elected an individual as a leader—in the fastest possible time, and with the best possible choice—who would be positioned at the head of the system and in charge of its management, and announced his leadership during the first few hours.

There was not opposition, no power struggle, and no crossing of each others' paths. None of these things occurred. This cannot be digested by the world.

In view of our inherent rationality, the issue was very simple for us—as simple as taking a sip of water. When one knows an individual who possess the requirements, as well as merits and certain distinctions, then one can say: Fine, you can be the one.

They chose someone who has knowledge of the world, politics, and global issues; someone who has passed a test in fidelity, sincerity, and ability; someone who has sound knowledge of the revolution, the culture of the revolution; someone who has worked hard in the course of the revolution, and served the leader for many years; someone who has been taught by him and has benefitted from him.

We know that those who shoulder responsibilities do so not because they enjoy power and not because they want to possess something which others lack. It is a duty, a religious obligation, and a sense of responsibility. When someone possesses the ability to perform a task, why should he not do so? When someone can carry a load on

his shoulder, and guide and protect a nation, he should do so. It is part of his religious duty. But Europe does not understand such a religious duty. America and the Soviet Union do not understand it. We did not manage to convey to the world that Salman Rushdie was condemned to death only because of a religious edict. They keep insisting that now that Mr Khomeyni is dead, does he still have to be killed? Our dear brother, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was asked in that Soviet television interview, which you have probably heard yourselves: Do you still insist that Salman Rushdie should be killed, or is it now all over? They do not know what a religious obligation is.

These two forces, the popular force and the official force, managed to easily save this Islamic ummah from such an enormous calamity, through justice, piety, and a sense of relgious obligation and responsibility. Our country and our government have still remained firm in their place—in a much better position. Our enemies have at last become despondent. Even so the United States has not become despondent yet. This world-devouring United States, this adulterated element, is still bickering with us on a global level. It has sharpened its claws. When it notices that we are about to strike an economic deal with a country it interferes in such affairs to the best of its ability. It tries to strike off the deal. It even resorts to blackmail by saying that if you sign such deals and accords it will affect our relations. But, even though it has done such things, hitherto nothing has happened. What can it do now? [passage omitted]

Friday Prayers Second Sermon

LD2306215989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1435 GMT 23 jun 89

[Friday prayers second sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran on 23 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In this sermon, I have thought of speaking about three issues. The first one is to make a mention of the late Dr Chamran on the occasion of the anniversary of his death. [passage omitted]

The second issue is our issue of the day, the source of emulation [marja' taqlid]. Ever since we have reached the stage of maturity, ever since we learned about the issue of emulation of [taqlid], we have been aware of the issue of the source of emulation, which has its own mechanism [as heard].

This is how it has been since we reached maturity. In previous ages it has also been the same, although perhaps in very ancient times it might have been different. This has followed a certain pattern ever since it has been customary to write a treatise and to give it to the people, and for the people to accept and act upon the practical treatise of the sources of emulation.

I remember that it used to be said that the most natural choice was the choice of a source. This is very natural. There are no conspiracies, games, plots, or such like in it. Whenever a source leaves this world, everybody would refer to the Friday imam of his locality, to a master in his locality, or a master in his region, a person whom he knows, and ask his view. Some of them were very holy and would not express an opinion, and would say [words indistinct]; but others felt it their duty, they said it was their religious duty to speak, and they would speak. [passage omitted]

The gentlemen, the sources, the jurisconsults, the most learned scholars who belong to the past, who are older, who have stayed longer in the religious seminaries, who have taught longer, who are more experienced, are the sources of emulation, which normally belongs to them and circulates among them. Sometimes, there are two, or three, or four, or five, or six, or more or less. Then they pass away. Those who are more or less of the same age leave this world one after another. Then it will be limited to only one person, and he will become a world source, a unique source. When he dies, then it will be the turn of the subsequent generation. It is natural that in the subsequent generation, there is not only one person. Naturally, there are a few. [passage omitted]

His holiness the imam was a source, as well as a leader, and he combined all these great qualities. At times, there are telephone calls, questions, expressions of disquiet. I believe that there is no need for such issues. The gentlemen will endure, they will remain steadfast, and depending on the permission of one of these gentlemen who issues guidelines for choosing a source or the permission of someone else he will turn to someone they regard as the most learned.

The next point about which I wish to remind the dear brothers and sisters, respectfully and humbly, is that they take part in the elections. [passage omitted] Brothers and sisters, our unity and solidarity has resolved many of our problems throughout the various stages of the revolution. The march on Jerusalem Day under bombings and missile attacks solved many of our problems. The funeral and the expression of devotion to the imam solved our world problem in a complete way.

We receive certain reports, which are the source of great joy. As for those who until yesterday were waiting for chaos and disunity to arise in our midst and in our country, so that it will be weakened—now we receive reports that they are now becoming very worried. Their officials are resigning. They are dismissing some of the people in sensitive posts. Now we are becoming glad as the result of God's bounties. If on such days we act according to our religious duty—what is our religious duty?—especially as the issue of the constitution is raised. [sentence as heard] When the first Constitution was put to vote, it was approved with a very high number of votes. Now, on the orders of his holiness the imam, after 10 years of experience and tests dealing with a

number of difficulties, with the views of experts, who are knowledgeable and who are well-meaning, this Constitution has been amended. We should not approve this Constitution with a low number of votes. We should definitely feel that we have a responsibility.

The same is true of presidential elections. The higher the number of votes for the president, the greater his international reputation will be. It is possible that among ourselves we may not attach too much importance to it. We may say that we know that gentleman, we like him, and he has no need of our votes. Whether I vote for him or not, I still accept him. This may be all right among ourselves. However, in international circles, the person who takes the reins of power in his hands, who becomes the ruler, who with one hand solves domestic problems, while with the other hand he regulates international relations, who has contacts with other countries of the world, if such a person has a low number of votes, he will not have the international reputation that he needs.

We are devoted to our country. We are devoted to our revolution. We are devoted to our officials. Therefore, we should have a feeling of responsibility, we should regard it as our duty; and, apart from that, with this move we should please the soul of his holiness the imam, we should continue the path of the imam. God willing, on the day of voting for the Constitution and for the president, all of us together, with unity and with solidarity, we will deliver another blow at the mouth of the nonsense babblers. [passage omitted]

U.S. Reaction to Iran-USSR Ties Viewed

LD2506175789 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—As Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was visiting Moscow earlier this week which led to a comprehensive economic, industrial and scientific agreement between the two countries until the year 2,000, political and news sources in other countries voiced views in relation with the important development.

The Persian daily RESALAT said Sunday that the most interesting of such observations perhaps, was that by the United States which indicated the Americans' concern about growing improving relations between Iran and the Soviet Union. The last observation was by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Saturday who rang an alarm about the projected sale of military weapons to Iran by the Soviets.

On Friday, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler was quoted by foreign dispatches as saying that "as the Soviet Union seeks to play a more responsible international role, we and others find it difficult to understand efforts to move close to a regime that continues to support international terrorism and hostage takings."

Earlier on, THE WASHINGTON POST had said that the Bush administration had warned the Soviets that any large-scale sale of weapons to Iran would displease the Americans.

RESALAT said the response of the Americans towards agreements between the two neighboring countries which are thousands of kilometers away from the United States merits attention from several points of view.

The response of the Americans towards the visit to Moscow by the Iranian Majlis speaker, in the opinion of the daily, is a token of a blatant disregard of the general principles in relations between countries and governments.

RESALAT recalled that it is an internationally accepted principle that governments have the freedom to formulate their own foreign policies and do according to the wishes of their own citizens.

"The charter of the United Nations," said the daily, "does not say that the foreign policies of any one country should be dictated to it by other countries."

It said, "It seems the Soviets would be wise to respond to the reaction of the Americans and disclose to the world the self-declared right of the White House for having the world under the U.S. mandate," and added the pretense that the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to support international terrorism and hostage taking is one instance of application of really old and useless leverages by the foreign relations system in the United States.

"To label Iran as a supporter of terrorism," said the daily, "is an accusation even with no supporter in the Western countries." The recent return to Tehran by the ambassadors of France and West Germany after an absence of several months is among the many evidences which disprove the U.S. charges against Iran, added the Persian daily.

The world now seeing pictures of occupied Palestine, Lebanon, South Africa and hundreds of other locations in the world understands the meaning of state terrorism by the people at the helm in the White House, and learns that any nation who should choose to resist against the ambitions of the United States is accused of terrorism, and is labelled a violator of human rights, and judged to be undemocratic, and dictatorial, according to RESALAT.

It said the observations by the Americans indicate in fact the failure of the U.S. diplomacy for re-establishing relations with Iran which were severed in 1979.

In the opinion of the daily the cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union in the region opens a new chapter in the diminishing influence of the United States probably with adverse impacts to Washington, and the statements by the U.S. officials in connection with Iran-Soviet relations betray only the confusion and fears of the United States over the development.

Commentary on Speaker's Visit to USSR

LD2406124589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Unattributed commentary: "The end of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union"]

[Text] Yesterday, the visit of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces to the Soviet Union came to an end. During this 4-day visit, which he paid to the Soviet Union at the head of a high-ranking delegation of officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the framework of cooperation between the two countries in economic, commercial, political, and scientific fields was defined for the next 10 years.

Agreements on the production of energy, construction of dams, participation in the expansion of steel industries, and the agreement between the two sides regarding the expansion and development of transportation routes in the two countries were among the most important headings of economic agreements between the two sides.

In addition to economic aspects, due to the political and economic formation of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, discussed political issues of interest to both countries, regional issues, such as developments in Afghanistan and the situation in [Palestinian] occupied lands, as well as the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit, which had been postponed for 2 years due to disagreements between the two countries in connection with the Iran-Iraq war and the issue of Afghanistan, was, in view of the history of relations between Tehran and Moscow, definitely a turning point in bilateral relations. On the one hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a new order based on a popular revolution, with its own ideological context and its antidictatorial and anticolonialist nature, was, during its 1st decade, constantly the object of attacks by imperialism. On the other hand, the Soviet Union, as the result of the leadership of Mr Gorbachev and his announced policies of glasnost and perestroyka, is in the throes of the establishment of a new order. For the first time since the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the two countries raised and exchanged their views at the highest levels. This development is unprecedented in the lifetime of the government of the Islamic Republic, and throughout the period of domination of the Romanovs in Russia, and in the years after the success of the Bolshevik revolution in the Soviet Union, one cannot find a precedent.

The presence of the most senior [as heard] official of the Islamic Republic and his accompanying delegation in Moscow, which took place after the removal of some difficulties and differences between the two countries regarding issues of interest to them, has paved the way for greater political understanding, an understanding which will, no doubt, leave its mark in the expansion of economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

Regardless of political relations, the two countries have many other reasons for attaching importance to the course of present relations. The Soviet Union, as the only northern neighbor, and as a country which has the longest common border with Iran, also enjoys considerable economic, technical and political [as heard] capabilities which can be used toward safeguarding the mutual interests of both countries. At the same time, cultural and Islamic affinities between Iran and Muslim republics of the Soviet Union can be used for further strengthening bilateral relations.

The Visit of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow has paved the way for a reevaluation of relations between the two countries, each of which are among the major political players in the field of international politics. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a revolutionary country, which, during its lifetime has attacked the interests of imperialism, not only enjoys an exceptional position among the Third World countries, but also enjoys the distinction of being the only country which has implemented an Islamic order in practice.

In view of these factors, many political observers believe that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani was welcomed in Moscow as the representative of a revolutionary, independent and stable country. Maybe one can regard this fact as the most important reason for the achievement of agreements between the two sides in various fields.

During Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's talks with Mr Gorbachev, the mutual understanding of the two countries regarding most of the issues raised was often stressed, so much so that one can say that there was no issue which was discussed over which there was no agreement. Concerning this, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In nearly all international and regional issues, as well as bilateral relations, we had a unity of views, and there are many fields for cooperation between the two countries.

The visit of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation to the Soviet Union once again demonstrates the desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand its relations with neighboring as well as other

countries, relations which will undoubtedly be based on safeguarding the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran with no hegemonic tendencies.

Ahmad Khomeyni Cited Further on Unity

LD2306201889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in his speech delivered at the mourning ceremony in memory of Imam Khomeyni, remarked that unity, as the important secret of success and as the significant element in the durability of the Islamic Revolution, was constantly emphasized by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. He called on the various strata of people to further consolidate this unity and reiterated on the necessity of obeying the great leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, so as to attain the goals of the Islamic Revolution and uphold Islamic values. In part of his speech, he said:

[Begin Khomeyni recording] I thank you brothers and sisters, on behalf of myself, the honorable members of the imam's household, and the members of the imam's secretariat. [passage indistinct] I also convey my condolences to you. Sisters and brothers! You console the pain in our hearts. Your feelings [passage indistinct].

God willing, you will remain steadfast on the original path of the revolution and the Imam, and will follow the lofty goals of the Imam to the end. If today we have stood firm, with all our might, against America. If today your officials can voice their rhetoric against East and West without any vacillation it is all due to your genuine resolve to attain the lofty Islamic goals.

You should not think that the Imam does not exist anymore. Thanks be to God, there are high-ranking officials in your country. Our leadership differs from the previous one only in respect of age. The goal of Ayatollah Khamene'i is the same as that of the imam. To attain the lofty Islamic goals, the imam's goals, the goals of the system, we should preserve our unity. If we do not remain united today, you can be sure that your martyrs will not [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Pakistan

Senate Chairman Leaves for PRC 25 Jun

BK2506154589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] The Senate session will be convened on the 8th of next month in Islamabad. The session is being convened by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad on the request of some senators.

The Senate chairman told newsmen at Islamabad airport before leaving for Beijing that he has received the signed application by 26 members of the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA]. The IDA members want to review the situation that has been created as a result of some politicians' press statements relating to the constitutional status of the upper house, relations between the federation and the provinces and other political and economic matters.

The 12-member delegation is visiting the PRC on the invitation of Li Xiannian, the chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Soviet-Mujahidin Talks on POWs Show 'Progress'

BK2606165889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1649 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 26 (AFP)—Soviet and mujahidin negotiators made progress here during a fourth round of talks Monday on an exchange of prisoners in the Afghan conflict, sources on both sides said.

For the first time the talks were conducted in "a constructive way," and "signs of progress" emerged Monday, notably on the lists of prisoners to be included in the swap, a spokesman for the Soviet Embassy here said.

He said the negotiations, the first since January 6, were convened at the request of the Soviet side and another round was expected to follow.

A "collective exchange principle" was decided upon, the spokesman said, adding that the mujahidin had authorized the International Committee of the Red Cross to pay visits to captured Soviet soldiers, who would also be allowed to write letters.

The provisional government of the Afghan resistance said in a communique that the Soviet delegation agreed to "exchange the prisoners of war directly, at once." The location and date of the exchange had not been decided.

"Our door is always open for negotiation," Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the provisional government, said.

The Soviet officials, who said no mujahidin rebels were imprisoned in the Soviet Union, agreed to hold discussions with authorities in Kabul who hold several thousand mujahidin, Soviet sources in Islamabad said.

A total of 313 Red Army soldiers were officially listed as missing during the Afghan conflict, and Moscow believes that some of them were captured by the mujahidin.

Western intelligence services have said at least 100 Soviet prisoners remain in the hands of the Afghan resistance.

The Soviet and Kabul authorities rejected a resistance claim that they were holding 40,000 mujahidin prisoners. The Afghan government says 7,500 rebels have been detained, a Soviet source said.

Monday's negotiations were the fourth since November 27 when Soviet and mujahidin negotiators met in Islamabad. Two other sessions were held in Jeddah on December 4 and in Islamabad on January 6.

The Islamabad talks were held at the Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

During the latest session, a delegation of mothers of Soviet prisoners of war spent 10 days here to press Afghan resistance leaders for a promise to release their sons.

The mothers came in a "private" capacity, a Soviet Embassy spokesman said.

They were received by principal officials of the provisional government and further meetings were expected this week in Peshawar, seat of the Afghan resistance.

During the war in Afghanistan, started by a Soviet invasion in December 1979, more than one million Afghans died. Combat between government forces and the mujahidiien continues despite the Red Army's withdrawal in February.

President Cited on Sabotage in POF Fire, Blast

BK2606164689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1639 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, June 26 (AFP)—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Monday ruled out sabotage for an ordnance factory blast in northwest Pakistan three days ago that killed 12 people.

The president said the blast was caused by an electric short-circuit, although he said investigations were continuing into the incident.

The ordnance factory explosion was one of three large weekend blazes in Pakistan that killed a total of 31 people.

Saturday's blast in the northwest Pakistan town of Hawelian followed an overnight gas-pipeline blast in Lahore that killed 18 people.

On Friday one airman was killed and another badly injured at Chaklala Air Force Base near Islamabad when an oil tanker caught fire and blew up.

High-level government teams are investigating the three blasts.

1 Killed, 4 Injured in Quetta Bomb Explosion

BK2606012289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] In a bomb explosion in the (Pashchimabad) area of Quetta yesterday evening, one person was killed and four others injured; all of the victims belonged to the same family. The injured were admitted to a hospital. Official sources said that the bomb was kept in a house and that an investigation is being conducted.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Party Invites Sinhalese Rebels for Talks

BK2706051289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0500 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] New Delhi, June 27 (AFP)—A key Sri Lankan Tamil political party invited a powerful Sinhalese militant group for peace talks Tuesday in a surprise move aimed at ending violence in the troubled island nation.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) extended the invitation to the anti-government Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) through a statement released in Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee town, an EPRLF spokesman said.

The invitation, issued by EPRLF Secretary-General K. Padmanabha, said discussions between the two groups "will certainly and surely pave the way for peace and prosperity of all concerned," the spokesman said in a telephone interview from Madras, southern India.

The pro-India EPRLF is a former Tamil separatist group which now administers the Tamil-populated Northeastern Province where New Delhi has some 45,000 peacekeeping troops, who were deployed under a 1987 peace pact with Colombo.

The JVP, Sri Lanka's main anti-government group which seeks its support from the majority Sinhalese community, has virtually paralysed the island with strikes and unofficial curfews.

The four-paragraph statement issued by Mr. Padmanabha said ordinary people "who are really innocent and helpless should not be allowed to suffer any longer" by anti-government actions.

The statement said the left-wing EPRLF was extending "an open-hearted, cordial and friendly invitation to the JVP to come forward for a fruitful and worthy discussion on matters concerning the present political situation in Sri Lanka.

"Needless to mention here that this invitation is an extension of true sense of friendship, true love for the people and true love for Sri Lanka as a whole."

"We kindly request the leadership of JVP to accept this unconditional offer for seeking ways and means for real peace and social progress," it said.

"I hope the JVP leadership will accept this fact that all militant political organisations do really have a responsibility to save the people from the bloodthirsty grip of the present political pressure.

"So at this juncture, EPRLF-JVP discussions will certainly and surely pave the way for peace and prosperity of all concerned," the statement added.

The JVP, which is violently opposed to the 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan aimed at crushing a Tamil separatist campaign in the island with India's military muscle, has repeatedly spurned all peace offers by Colombo so far.

The group, which in 1971 led a mass insurrection that was put down with the loss of more than 10,000 lives, has been blamed for hundreds of killings since the accord was signed.

In recent days, Sri Lankan ministers have warned that the JVP challenge would be met with an iron hand. Political observers here said the EPRLF invitation to the JVP appeared to be aimed at embarrassing Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, whose call for a withdrawal of Indian troops by July 29 has been rejected by New Delhi.

Colombo is now holding peace talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main Tamil separatist group which, unlike the EPRLF, refused to accept the 1987 pact and lay down arms.

Colombo Responds to JVP-Called Curfew

BK2606052889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Colombo, June 26 (AFP)—Shops and offices closed and people kept off the streets in Colombo and its immediate suburbs Monday in response to an anti-government rebel strike call, witnesses said.

The Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) said in posters and leaflets circulated clandestinely here Sunday that it had declared a one-day curfew and urged people to strictly observe it.

The militant group had warned those venturing out Monday that they face the risk of being caught up in bomb blasts or crossfire.

A police spokesman here said police found two bombs in the capital early Monday and defused them without casualties.

"Everything is closed. Streets are deserted except for an occasional cyclist or a police or Army jeep passing through," a resident in Maharagama suburb said by telephone.

In the city centre here, all shops, banks, government offices and the Central Telegraphic Office remained closed as employees did not turn up for work, officials said.

The JVP action was aimed at expressing solidarity with bus crews continuing a work stoppage since June 12 and defying the state of emergency declared by President Ranasinghe Premadasa last week in the face of a deteriorating security situation in the country.

The JVP move also coincided with a government deadline for some 52,000 employees of the state run central transport board to report for work or lose their jobs.

It was not immediately clear if the authorities would carry out their threat to sack the strikers, who are demanding higher wages.

Reports from southern Galle District, a stronghold of the JVP, said life was almost normal in the coastal region and shops and offices were functioning normally.

It is likely that people will close up early because of the strike in Colombo," a resident contacted by telephone said.

Faced with unprecedented domestic crises, Mr. Premadasa declared emergency rule on June 20, giving sweeping powers to security forces to deal with anti-government militants.

The JVP is opposed to the government and has been continuing a violent campaign to seize power. In 1971, the group led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Parliament Member Opposes Indian Pullout

BK2606131889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan member of parliament, Mr (Sam Thamthimuthu), has said India is morally and legally bound to implement the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement in full, and therefore the question of withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] does not arise now. He apprehended that a situation like the 1983 riots would immediately erupt if the PKF is withdrawn now.

In an interview to the All-India Radio correspondent, S. Roberts, in Batticaloa today, he said the Tamils in Sri Lanka gave up the struggle for a separate state—Eelam—because of the understanding with India that their aspirations will be fulfilled by a provincial council set up within the Sri Lankan Constitution.

Northeast Minister on Pullout

BK2606161689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has alleged that President Premadasa is trying to focus the question of PKF [Peacekeeping Force] pullout among the Sinhalese only to cover up his failure in the south. In an interview

to a news agency at Trincomalee, he said that Mr Premadasa is fully aware that without the PKF there will be no peace in the province.

Mr Perumal reaffirmed that the PKF should not be pulled out unless complete devolution of powers as promised in the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement and permanent security to the Tamils are ensured. He pointed out that as the government in Colombo has not taken steps to carry out the accord, it only means that it does not have any faith in the unity of Sri Lanka.

6 LTTE, 6 Indian Troops Killed 25 Jun

BK2606032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, six LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men were killed in an encounter with the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] near Jaffna and Kilinochchi yesterday. A PKF press release issued in Madras said six of its jawans [soldiers] were also killed in the encounter. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized in a raid on a hideout in the jungles of Trincomalee sector.

Strike Continues 26 Jun

BK2606163389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] A daylong strike called by the extremist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] today paralyzed normal life in the central and southern parts of the country. It was in support of the road transport workers who have been staying away from work from the 12th of this month demanding higher wages. The transport workers refused to return to work ignoring the government's ultimatum to join today or face dismissal.

Meanwhile, 16 hardcore Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] militants were shot dead in two separate encounters with the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Sri Lanka today. According to a PKF press release issued in Madras, 14 militants were killed near Omanthai in Vavuniya sector. Two other militants were killed near (Kondari) in Jaffna sector.

Indian Troops Ambushed 27 Jun

BK2706072889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0713 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Colombo, June 27 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrilla group said it ambushed an Indian Army patrol in the island's northern jungles Tuesday [27 June] killing at least 15 soldiers.

It said one of its own fighters was also killed.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement here said its fighters ambushed the Indian patrol in the Alampil area in coastal Mullaitivu District and captured weapons and ammunition.

The attack was the worst since LTTE guerrillas launched a similar ambush in neighbouring Kilinochchi District on June 14 which left 14 Indian soldiers dead as well as LTTE's self-styled Lieutenant Kathiravan (one name).

There was no immediate confirmation of the latest incident from either Indian or local military oficials here.

The attack came as Indian troops stepped up an offensive against Tiger rebels. Colombo has ordered Indian troops confined to barracks by the end of July if they have not left the island by then.

The LTTE is currently waging a bloody bush war against some 45,000 Indian troops deployed in the island's Tamil-populated northeast in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa, a known critic of the peace pact, has asked India to take back its troops by July 29, the second anniversary of the accord. New Delhi has implicitly rejected the demand and attached conditions to a troop withdrawal.

India has lost nearly 900 soldiers and killed over 2,000 suspected Tiger rebels after the LTTE repudiated the peace accord and refused to surrender arms.